



9<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of this first half-term, we are well and truly into the swing of the school life with our students having completed their first Unit of Inquiry, as well as moved on with other parts of the programme. We hope that you found the Parent Teacher Conferences beneficial, finding out about your child's progress as well as having questions answered.

### Cricket

Our students have also been busy in their sports events. Last Saturday, on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, our Junior School Boys' U11 Cricket team played in an inter-school tournament. They won their first two games which took them to the finals, where they then finished second overall with Shree Swaminarayan Academy taking first place. I was most impressed by the skills that our boys demonstrated, including their team spirit, sportsmanship and ability to communicate as a team out on the pitch. They certainly served us proud!



AKAM U11 Cricket Team



## **AKA, Mombasa Swim Team**

This week-end we will be hosting the CASA Open Age Group Swimming Championships (10 years and over). It should be noted that your child may swim representing our school at competitions should they wish to, even if they train with another club. Should you be interested in this, please contact our Head of Sports, Gervais Ramar ([Gervais.Ramar@agakhanacademies.org](mailto:Gervais.Ramar@agakhanacademies.org)) to organise this. It will involve participating in a pre-competition training session. We certainly wish our young swimmers well in the up-coming events.

## **Assemblies**

We heartily enjoy sharing our assemblies with our whole community, and please know that you are always most welcome to join us on a Friday morning at 7:45am. The most recent ones were presented by our Year 5 classes connected to their Unit of Inquiry on Migration. Both assemblies used stories and some great acting as a way of communicating the main ideas connected to the reasons and issues around the subject of migration.

On Monday this week, Firdos Kanji, our AKA, Mombasa Head of Operations, came and told the students a story about her three dogs which had been mistreated and how she adopted them. The photos she shared were highly appreciated by the students. A key message in sharing these stories was to ask students to be more careful in the disposal of waste food as this is given to organisations such as the KSPCA. On another note connected to animal welfare, we often have healthy kittens on campus looking for good homes. If any family might be interested in them, please let us know by contacting the school office at [rebecca.davis@agakhanacademies.org](mailto:rebecca.davis@agakhanacademies.org)

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October we had an assembly to introduce our students to the function and role of the Student Representative Council. We believe it is important for our students to have a voice in making our school a better place to live and learn in. This helps them become responsible members of their immediate community and beyond. Every year, the school takes the students through the process of electing representatives from different year levels that take active roles in issues related to Citizenship, Action, Academics and Expression. Our Senior School SRC members and Ms. Kristine gave a presentation explaining the different roles of this important body of the school, with excerpts from His Highness's speeches about our vision for leadership. After the mid-term break, those interested in being elected will present themselves to the students for voting.

## **Raz Kids ([www.kidsa-z.com](http://www.kidsa-z.com))**

At the Academy, we believe in instilling a love for reading and as part of this provide an online reading programme, Raz Kids. Through this platform all students have access to a wealth of online reading materials. Years 2 to 5 have been given a printout for their log in details and we will initiate our Year 1 students to the programme during the second half of this term. Raz Kids offers students access to a wide variety of books, both fiction and non-fiction, the possibility to record their reading for fluency practice, and, to take quizzes and check for comprehension.

As parents, you too can have access to monitor your child's progress and get reports on their literacy skills. Once your child has logged in, you can go to the 'parents' tab and request parental access if you don't have it already. In case of any problems with this, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher for further assistance.

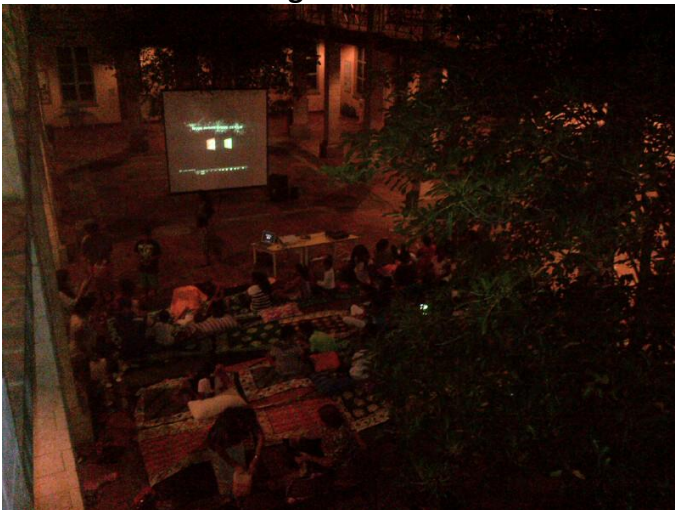


## Art Competition



As you will see from the picture above, we have some truly talented artists at AKA, Mombasa. One of our local schools, The Coast Academy, will be holding an art contest on 7<sup>th</sup> November in art and design, IT and creative writing. If you are interested in your child participating in any of these events you may enrol them privately to take part. We are proposing this as a *private entry* so that more children can participate as we would otherwise be limited to three students per category if we enrolled as a school. Please let us know if your child will be participating by emailing our Art Teacher, Ms Mary Wanza at [mary.wanza@agakhanacademies.org](mailto:mary.wanza@agakhanacademies.org). A workshop will be run for our students in preparing for this event in the art room on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November from 2.45 to 3.45pm to practice on their prep sketch drawing beforehand. Attached with this letter are copies of the documents sent from The Coast Academy.

## Year 4 and 5 movie night in connection with the Child's Right unit



Yesterday evening, we really enjoyed sharing an award winning film, *'On the Way to School'* with our Year 4 and 5 community. The film is a beautiful report of some children from four different parts of the world and their plight to get to school covering long distances and overcoming all sorts of challenges on their journeys to get there. The heroes of this documentary, this being the children, demonstrated incredible levels of commitment to each other, determination and autonomy throughout their journeys, making this an inspiring and thought-provoking piece. This film was not just significant in its content but also showed our students the values that these children demonstrated, which are common with the foundation of our programme. Despite the film being in French, we were able to appreciate the storyline and the quality of the images. Please see the link to the film's trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elsQ0B43Q9Y>

### **PYP Parent Workshops**

On return after the holidays, we look forward to sharing with you the programme for our Parent PYP Information Workshops. We propose having one on the *student action* and *service learning* component to our programme. Some parents have also expressed an interest in us doing one on *digital citizenship* and *child safety*. Should you have specific areas that you would like to suggest, please contact one of our Parent Association representatives or indeed, let me know at [isla.gordon@agakhanacademies.org](mailto:isla.gordon@agakhanacademies.org).

Finally, for those of you who are travelling over this mid-term break we wish you safe travels. For those of you staying here in Mombasa we also wish you well, and to all, a wonderful and relaxing time. We look forward to seeing our students back at school on Wednesday, 21 October.

Kind regards,

Isla Gordon  
Principal, Junior School

