



Dear Parents,

Welcome to our 8th May, 2015 Junior School Newsletter. Our main messages for this communication are:

- Assembly: the DP2 students coming to speak with the Junior School with inspiring stories about their time at AKAM, and their plans for their future studies
- Reviewing the Dual Language Programme
- Student-led Conferences
- Junior School Football
- Swimming Team CASA results
- *Uhai* Service Club
- Planning Ahead: next year's calendar
- Dates for your diary

DP2 Students Visit the Junior School

On Tuesday 28th April we welcomed five DP2 students to our school assembly. This was their last day of lessons prior to starting their final IB diploma exams on Monday this week. Joshua Ekirikubinza, Lilian Odera, Fatema Hassanali, Karishma Bhagani and Elsie Chemelil shared stories from their time at AKA, Mombasa, and for a couple of them, this included inspiring and happy moments from their time at the Junior School. They told our students about events and people who had influenced their choices of what to pursue for their further studies and reminded our students to follow their dreams; not to narrow options too early and how to build confidence in themselves. Many of our students responded by making cards and writing notes to wish the whole DP2 year success with their exams, as well as thanking the five students for their motivating speeches. As a school community we are very proud of this DP2 year level and their achievements. Many students have earned themselves places in world renowned universities and have been awarded more than US\$ 3.9 million in university scholarships and financial aid.



The day before our Junior School students were read the story, 'The North Star' by Peter Reynolds which provokes thought about individuals' different and interesting journeys in life.



Dual Language Programme Review

The AKA, Mombasa Dual Language Programme (DLP) has been in implementation in the Junior School since 2009, and a review process of the current model started at the beginning of this academic year. This review will be continuing into the 2015 – 2016 school year which will involve collecting data, benchmarking samples of student work in literacy, as well as working with the expertise of an outside authority in the field of bilingualism and dual language education.

Whilst the linguistic and cognitive benefits of bilingual education remain central to our beliefs and mission, for the next year we have decided to postpone bringing the model of swapping homeroom classes every other day to Years 4 and 5. Instead, we will trial a model which will include some single subject lessons and enrichment activities in Kiswahili, as well as having some homeroom class lessons led in Ki-Swahili by a Ki-Swahili language teacher.

This DLP review process will involve a series of research studies, including focus group meetings (which start next week with some Year 3 parents), as well as a whole school survey of parents, students and teachers during the 2015 - 2016 school year. We look forward to our continued collaboration with parents around the topic of multi-lingual education and dual language programmes.

Student-Led Conferences

Our annual Student-Led Conferences will be held on **Wednesday 27th** and **Thursday 28th May, from 8.00am to 3.00pm**. The conferences are targeted to parents of students in Year 1 – 4, as parents of the Year 5s will discuss their child's progress during the Exhibition unit. Sent along with this newsletter is the letter about the Student-Led Conferences. A paper copy of the reply slip will be sent home on Monday 11th May for ease of response.

The PYP Exhibition (A message from Year 5 teachers)

The PYP Exhibition for Year 5's started last week. The students have started this unit by identifying their interests and passions. Most of them have mentioned their parents as role models and inspirations. For the next week they will be looking into the issues connected to their chosen topics. The children are busy writing, reflecting, talking and building new ideas. A couple of them have identified primary sources of knowledge – many focusing around interviewing people face to face, as well as virtual interviews through Skype. In the coming two weeks they will be going deeper into the issues, finding out information and forming questions around the PYP key concepts. We had a parent information day yesterday evening. For parents of Year 5 students, we will invite you to come in for checkpoints which will allow you to see your child's progress. The Exhibition will be show-cased on 8th and 9th June, 2015.

Junior School Sports – Football Teams' Success

On Tuesday 28th April our two boys teams (Under 9 and Under 11's) travelled to Oshwal Academy for their first match of the season. The Under 11 team played a league match and won 3 -1 after a great display of skills and teamwork. The team comprised of the following boys: Mohamed, Joedy, Ryan, Lorenzo, Mwinyi, Krish, Ally, Peter, Abdulrazzaq and Omar.

The Under 9 team played a friendly match and won 7- 4. The team members were Ayub, Collin, Ivan H, Shawn, Calvin, Talal, Gerry, Dheerav and Aly Muhammad. The team showed a great deal of commitment and promise, as most were playing in the school team for the first time. Well done to both teams!





U11 Football Team



U9 Football Team

CASA Junior Swimming Championship Results

Our girls' and boys' swim teams took overall first position in the U11 CASA Junior Championships, which took place on the weekend of 2nd and 3rd May 2015. 12 other schools and clubs participated in the event. For each team there were five categories in ages 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 years. 107 medals and several personal trophies were won by the team. Well done!

The AKA, M medal breakdown:

Gold - Boys 17 and Girls 29 - Total 46

Silver- Boys 19 and Girls 16 - Total 35

Bronze- Boys 20 and Girls 6 -Total 26

Total medals - 107



A team of 13 swimmers will travel to Nairobi for next weekend for the Open National Championships. We wish them well and look forward to their achievements.

UHAI Service Club – Annual Sports Tournament

The Junior School students are invited to participate in an Annual Sports Tournament to be held on **Saturday 6th June 2015**, at school. This event is being organized by Uhai, a community and service club led by Diploma students, aimed at providing clean water and sanitation to rural communities around Mombasa. Please see the invitation letter which gives you further details. Reply slips and payment for lunch may be sent to the Junior School office.

2015 – 2016 School Year Calendar

This final term of the school year will undoubtedly fly by and we are making plans for the next academic year. Sent along with this newsletter is a copy of the 2015 – 2016 Calendar. Note that the students start school on **Monday 17th August** rather than Monday 10th August as indicated in the 2014 -2015 calendar, and as a consequence, next year's April holiday is a few days shorter than the usual two weeks.

Upcoming Events - Dates for your Diary

- **Friday 15th May: Half-Term (no school on Friday next week)**
- Wednesday 20th May: Year 2 and 3 trip to Braeburn to watch Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Production
- Thursday 21st May: PYP Coffee Morning at 8.00am. (End of Year Parent Reflection Session)
- Wednesday 27th May: Student-Led Conference and Portfolio Sharing (Year 1-4)
- Thursday 28th May: Student-Led Conference and Portfolio Sharing (Year 1 – 4)
- 29th May: Swahili Day (whole school event). Students may come to school dressed in Swahili attire.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable week-end.

With kind regards,

Isla Gordon
Principal, Junior School

