

Friday, 22nd May 2015

Dear Parents,

With just under one month of the school year left, I write to you with some updates from the Junior School.

Year 5 Events

Our Year 5s will be moving to Year 6 in the Senior School on their return to school in August, so they have just a few weeks left with us. They are currently in the middle of their Exhibition Unit and we really enjoyed seeing parents in school this week for the 'check point' where students presented their research and work to-date. All teachers in the Junior School are involved as mentors for groups of the students and will be guiding them until the final Exhibition presentation days on **Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th June**. Parents in the Junior School are invited to this PYP event, officially opening on the evening of the **Monday 8th June at 5.00 p.m.**



For Year 5 students, please note the following important events and dates:

- PYP Exhibition on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th June in the Junior School
- Field Trip with Camps International to Marungu Hills, Tsavo, from Thursday 11th to Saturday 13th June
- PYP Graduation on Monday 15th June from 8.00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in the Junior School (all Year 5 parents are invited to attend)
- Year 5 Party on Monday 15th June from 6.00 – 9.00 p.m. in the Junior School

Year 2A and 2K Assembly

Today the Year 2s treated us to a wonderful assembly connected to their current Unit of Inquiry on the concept of *adaptation*. For this unit they have been researching about local fauna, finding out about Kenyan wild-life and the forms it takes for survival within its natural habitats. The assembly was colourful, informative, as well as creative, and finished with a slide show featuring the wealth of learning experiences the students have had over the course of the year. We highly appreciate these moments when classes showcase their learning, a valuable part of the process of student inquiry, and sharing it with the wider community.



Visit to Braeburn, Mombasa – Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Drama Production

The Year 2, 3 and 4 students went to Braeburn Mombasa International School on Wednesday 20th May 2015, to watch the production *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by the acclaimed children’s book author Roald Dahl. Year 2 and 3 have been reading and absolutely love Roald Dahl books such as *Matilda*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Fantastic Mr. Fox* and *George’s Marvellous Medicine*. The Year 4 Unit of Inquiry is on the Transdisciplinary Theme of *How We Express Ourselves*, using theatrical performances as a form of expression. The visit to the theatre was an exciting morning for the children. They dressed up as various characters from Roald Dahl books. Hannah Alidina dressed up as Willy Wonka and won the best costume whilst Karam Amarshi made an ‘Energy Bar’ and won the best design for the Golden Ticket chocolate design competition.

The students’ visit to Braeburn and their interaction with their counterparts at the school forges a larger community of collaborative learning.



PYP Coffee Morning

We had the first of our two **End of Year Reflections** PYP Coffee meetings yesterday, Thursday 21st May. As well as sharing some of the achievements and memorable moments from this school year, we presented some key goals that the Junior School and Academy will be working on for 2015 - 2016. This meeting was also an opportunity to gather feedback from parents. We will share the presentation used in the next newsletter that goes out, after the next PYP Coffee Session which takes place on **Thursday 4th June from 5.15p.m. to 6.15p.m.** in the Junior School Library. Please remember to inform our school office at rebecca.davis@agakhanacademies.org if you plan to attend.

Sports News

Football and Netball Matches

On Monday 18th May, both the Under 9 and Under 11 boys' football teams played against Jaffery Academy in friendly matches. The U11s won their match 7-1 and the U9s won their match 8-0.

On Tuesday 19th May, the AKA, M U11 boys' team played in a triangular football match between Coast Academy and Jaffery Academy. In our first match against Coast Academy we won 2-0 and in the second match against Jaffery Academy our team emerged victorious, winning 4-0. On the same day our U11 girls played a netball match against Jaffery and lost 8-1.

Well done and congratulations to the all the players for their enthusiasm and representing the school.



U 9 Boys' Football Team



U11 Boys' Football Team



U 11 Girls' Netball Team

Kenya Swimming Federation – National Junior Swimming Championships, Nairobi

Members from our swimming team took part in the KSF Junior Swimming Championships, an international event which was held in Nairobi from Friday 15th to Sunday 17th May. Our school did extremely well; congratulations to our swimmers on their personal achievements and representing AKA, M.

Message from our Academy Head of Sports:

Our swimmers did very well in Nairobi this past weekend. With a team of 4 girls and 9 boys, we came third out of 48 teams which took part in the competition. We were first among the Kenyans; the first two places went to Ugandan teams.

Principal's Meeting with Classes

Next week I will hold meetings with every class in the school to discuss topics related to the school, which have been selected by the students. The classes have already sent me their agenda items and I very much look forward to these forums, which will provide our students with an opportunity to share creative thoughts and ideas about our school.

Swahili Day

In the Junior School we engage with our host country language, Kiswahili, every day, thanks to our Dual Language Programme. Next Friday, 29th May, as a campus, we will celebrate our Swahili culture.

A message from the Junior School Swahili Day Coordinator, Ms. Esther Kariuki

On Friday the 29th May, 2015, the AKA, M community will be celebrating its annual Swahili day. The theme for this year is “Kiswahili, Ngao Yetu” (Kiswahili, Our Shield). In a nutshell, the theme seeks to promote the use of Swahili language as a tool to perpetuate the idea of peaceful coexistence and unity of people of diverse cultural backgrounds in the 21st Century.

On this day, students are encouraged to come dressed up in Swahili attire. The day will start off with our morning assembly at 7.45 a.m. in the Commons. During break time, there will be henna painting at a minimal fee, and Swahili snacks will also be on sale at the school canteen. In this regard, you may wish to send your child with some money, approximately Ksh. 200. We would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to our assembly on this day.

Visit from The Aga Khan Academy, Hyderabad

For the whole of next week we will host School Management from the Aga Khan Academy in Hyderabad. This will include their PYP Coordinator, Archana Prashar, who will work closely with Rukiya Cochu, Alex Holland and myself on some cross-academy projects for 2015 – 2016. We would very much like to build some lines of communication between our students in the two schools and will be encouraging some exchanges around topics and global issues encountered through the Units of Inquiry.

Please take note of the upcoming Calendar Events:

- **Tuesday 26th May:** U11 Girls Triangular Netball Vs Mombasa Academy and Shree Swaminarayan (A)
- **Tuesday 26 May:** U11 Boys Triangular Football Vs Light Academy and Braeburn (A)
- **Wednesday 27th May:** Student-Led Conference and Portfolio Sharing
- **Thursday 28th May:** Student-Led Conference and Portfolio Sharing
- **Friday 29th May:** Swahili Day – Students may come to school dressed in Swahili attire
- **Friday 29th – Sunday 31st May:** CASA Inter-Clubs Invitational Swimming Championships
- **Thursday 4th June:** PYP Coffee Meeting at 5.15 p.m.
- **Friday 5th June:** Inter-House Swimming Gala: from 8.15 a.m.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Student-Led Conferences next week. In the meantime, I wish you a restful and enjoyable weekend.

With kind regards,

Isla Gordon
Principal, Junior School

