



Friday, 29th January, 2016

Dear Parents,

We hope this finds you well. This newsletter contains quite a lot of information about events taking place in the Junior School over the next couple of weeks, many of which involve you as parents. Please take the time to read it and note some of the key dates indicated below:

| | |
|--|--|
| Friday 29 th January | Student progress reports available on Managebac |
| Friday 5 th February | Junior School Open House for prospective Year 1 students and parents |
| Friday 5 th February | ISA results sent home |
| Thursday 11 th February | MYP Personal Project Presentations in the Commons (see flyer) |
| Thursday 11 th & Friday 12 th February | 3-Way Conferences for Years 1 to 3 |
| Friday 12 th February | 3-Way Conferences for Years 1 to 5 |
| Thursday 11 th - Friday 12 th February | Book Fair and Mother-Tongue story-reading (see flyer) |
| Friday 12 th February | Parent Workshop on Bilingual Learning (8.00am – 9.30am) |
| Friday 12 th February | Strands Workshop for Parents |
| Friday 12 th – Sunday 14 th February | CASA Open and Age Group Swimming Championships |
| Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th February | Half-term break |

Other Upcoming Events

| | |
|--|---|
| 26 th – 29 th February, 2016 | KSF National Open and Age Group Swimming Championships |
| Thursday 10 th & Friday 11 th March | Arts performance (evenings) |
| Saturday 12 th – Sunday 13 th March | CASA Junior Swimming Championships |
| Thursday 17 th March | PYP Exhibition and end of PYP Field Trip Information Session (for Year 5 Parents) |
| Thursday 24 th March | Junior School Inter-House Swimming Gala |
| Friday 25 th March – Friday 1 st April | 2 nd Term break |
| Monday 4 th April | School resumes for Term 3 |

Student Progress Reports

You should today be receiving your child's Semester 1 Progress Report, which will have been made available to you via our school's online information system, Managebac. Please read through the report with your child, noting down any questions they or you have. Our teachers will be pleased to discuss these with you at the 3-Way Conferences, in two weeks time. If you have not received a notification from Managebac that your child's report is ready for viewing, please contact Ms Rukiya Cochu at rukiya.cochu@agakhanacademies.org



3-Way Conferences

Earlier this week your child will have brought home to you a copy of the information letter and sign-up slip for the 3-Way Conferences (please check their bag in case they have not given it to you!). The deadline for handing this in to school is **Monday 1st February** and we will be informing you of the exact time of your conference by **Friday 5th February**. In case you have not received the letter, we have attached one with this newsletter.

Educating Bilingual Children; a Workshop for Parents

Next month we will be welcoming back to Mombasa, Mrs Eowyn Christfield-Burr, a consultant and expert in linguistics and multilingual learning. Her workshops with parents were very well received in August last year, and we are delighted to be offering another one during this visit. The workshop will be held on **Friday 12th February from 8.00am to 9.30am** in the Junior School library. If you would like to attend please indicate so on the reply slip attached to the 3-Way Conference letter or email Ms. Davis on rebecca.davis@agakhanacademies.org

Book Fair and celebrating stories in mother-tongue

During the 3-Way Conferences on 11th and 12th February, we look forward to seeing you at the Book Fair. This event is now a much-celebrated tradition at AKA, Mombasa and we hope you will visit it this year. Please plan to spend some time with your child/children looking at books, which will help them to relish their reading.

On the Thursday, we will also be reading stories to the children and their families, sharing tales from different parts of the world in the different languages: Kiswahili, Gujarati, Bengali, French, Urdu and Tajik! These stories, although they will be read in a language you may not be familiar with, will be told in a manner for you to understand and appreciate them. Please do join us for this exciting opportunity to celebrate our pluralistic values. Different stories will be read in the Junior School courtyard at 9:00am, 10:00am, 11:00am and 2:00pm (*only on the Thursday 11th February*).

ISA results

Every year, external assessments are carried out across year levels at the Academy. The ISA (International Schools' Assessment) www.acer.edu.au/isa provides data for students from Years 3 to 5. We anticipate that the results will be available to send to parents by the end of next week.

Learning in the Junior School

On Friday 22nd January, we had a delightful assembly prepared and presented by the Year 4K class. It was part of their inquiry into their unit on historical features, and they took us on a journey of a timeline of Mombasa's history. Students in the school, as well as the adults, very much enjoyed the animated and informative presentation.



Year 4K Assembly – 22nd January 2016

Assembly – Friday 29th January

During today's assembly we had Year 5 students present work to us from their current unit of inquiry on leadership. This work had been written and was presented in Kiswahili. With my limited Kiswahili, I was able to understand just a bit of it, but was nevertheless most impressed by the students' confidence in speaking whilst presenting to others. I was also informed by my colleagues that the level of language, choice of vocabulary used, as well as expression of ideas, was of high standard. We also had two Year 5 students read the school a story about teamwork.



Storytime – Assembly on Friday 29th January

The Hockey Season has started! *By Coach Anthony Ndungu*

The Junior School under 11 hockey teams have had a most successful start to the hockey season. On Tuesday 19th January, our boys' hockey team played Oshwal Academy here at AKA, M. This was the first match of the season and the team played with purpose and confidence, and managed to score 5 goals in each half to emerge the winner by a 10-0 margin. Well done to the team!



U11 Team vs Oshwal – 20th January 2016



On Tuesday 26th January AKA, M played two hockey matches against Jaffery Academy. It was the boys' second league match; they won 7-0! It was the girls' first match of the season and after a battle well fought they managed to draw 1-1. The boys have collected 10 points from the two matches they have played so far whilst the girls gained two points from the match. Well done to both teams!



U11 Boys vs Jaffrey Academy – 26th January 2016



U11 Girls vs Jaffrey Academy – 26th January 2016

Year 4 and 5 Floodlit Football

Yesterday the Year 4 and 5 students very much enjoyed playing football with each other at night. Indeed, the cooler temperatures made it a very pleasant evening for both the students and their parents who joined. We look forward to more of such events.



Floodlit Football

Arts Week

The Junior School will be hosting its first Arts Week in the week of the 7th March, 2016 and performances will take place on the Thursday 10th and Friday 11th March. An exhibition of the art work will be presented during the day on Friday 11th March. On Monday, students will be given a presentation about the different workshops that will take place during the Arts Week. We look forward to providing you with more information and photos of these workshops as the event unfolds.

MYP Personal Project

In the last year of the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP), our Year 10 students present an assessment piece known as the Personal Project (PP). The Year 10s will be exhibiting their projects in the Commons on **Thursday 11th February**. All students are invited to come and view these with their parents; a flyer has been attached with this letter for further information.

International School Book Club

A catalogue from the Scholastic International School Book Club has been issued to all the students. If you wish to order any books please return the order form and make payment at the Bursar's office, by **Wednesday 3rd February**.

Year 1 Open House

Finally, we will hold the Year 1 Open House next **Friday, 5th February**. This is an annual event for students and parents who are interested in joining the Academy in the next academic year. It will take place **from 7:45am to 11:00am** and will involve all students and teachers in the Junior School, showcasing and explaining what we do here at AKA, Mombasa; our programme and other school related activities. Members of our Parents Association will also be assisting us with this event. If you are free then and would also like to join and help us, you are more than welcome. Please email me at Isla.Gordon@agakhanacademies.org. If you have any family members or friends to whom you would recommend our school for their child, please let them know that they are most welcome to join. The telephone contacts of the Admissions department are: 0736 696 930 / 0736 200 008.

Wishing you an enjoyable and relaxing week-end and I very much looking forward to seeing you at the events taking place in the Junior School, over the next few months.

Kind regards,

Isla Gordon
Principal, Junior School

