



Wednesday, 22nd February 2017

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy short week at the Academy. Today, the IB Visiting Team carried out their final day of the evaluation of the Academy's programmes. During their time here they met with teachers, parents, students and observed lessons, also looking closely at our school's documentation. The team spoke of our 'phenomenal' students as well as the spirit and dedication of the Junior School team. They also spoke of the strong alignment between the Academy's vision and the IB philosophy. We look forward to receiving their final report in a month's time. We are also most appreciative of your support in your child's education, as indeed IB programmes require a considerable commitment, not just by the students, but also their families too.

Recently, you will have received a letter from the Head of Academy, Mr. Raymond Zinsli, announcing that at the end of this academic year I return to Switzerland and the International School of Geneva. I am most sorry to be leaving Mombasa. Spending the past three days showcasing our school to our evaluators has been a strong reminder of the exceptional community we have here at AKA Mombasa. My leaving is not easy, and I will certainly miss the vibrancy, the care and compassion of the community, especially the Junior School which has been my home for almost 3 years. Fortunately, I have exciting work to return to which will undoubtedly benefit from my time in Kenya, and I will certainly continue to keep in touch with AKA Mombasa, not just for personal connections, but to also develop forums for collaboration between the Academy and the International School in Geneva.

Over the past weeks our children have yet again been excelling in their endeavours; a CASA swimming gala and a wonderful Year 1 assembly are just some of the activities. It is a pleasure to provide you an insight into these in the rest of this newsletter.



Year 1 Assembly – 17th February

Last Friday the Year 1 students presented a wonderful assembly connected to their Unit of Inquiry on *Light*, to showcase their learning. Well done to all the students - their confidence shone through!



CASA Open and Age Group Swimming Championship

The CASA Open and Age Group Swimming Championship took place on 10th - 12th February at the Academy, with close to 300 participants from schools and clubs in Mombasa. AKA Mombasa won the overall trophy after attaining 833 points! The school coming second scored 531 points whilst the 3rd attained 369 points. Congratulations to all the swimmers for their outstanding performance! The newspaper article is available on the following link:

<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/sports/article/2001229461/swimming-aga-khan-academy-grabs-trophy>



AKAM 10+ Swimming champions with Coach Malik



We also look forward to getting news about the AKAM students who left for Nairobi today, for the Kenya Swimming Federation gala which takes place over our half term break. We also commend the the AKAM eight students, (three of whom are in the Junior School), who have been selected to represent CASA in the South African Swimming Association Level 2 Regional Age Group swimming competition in Port Elizabeth, on 20th – 28th March.

Year 4 Trip to Shimba Hills - 9th - 10th February

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the Year 4 classes recently went on an overnight field trip. Please see below, memorable moments from Shimba Hills. Not only was the visit educational, the students also had a very enjoyable time together.



Some student reflections:

- *Nilifunzwa nini kuhusu mazingira ya Shimba Hills? Nilifunzwa kwamba kuna wanyama kama komba, swara, ndovu na chui.*

Huko Shimba Hills nilifunzwa maneno mengi kama fuvu, poromoko la maji, watoto wa vichaka (bush babies), mzoga na buru kenge.

Pia tuilambiwa hadithi ya mtu aliyekuwa nyoka, na haidithi ya Sultani aliyekuwa na pembe.

- *I had never been to Shimba Hills. I really enjoyed this trip. It was my first overnight trip with my friends. The trip was fun because I learned about a new ecosystem called a tropical coastal rainforest. I got to see animals that I have never seen before like the genet cat, bush baby, fish eagle and squirrel. When my friends and I saw them we were super excited.*

One of our best experiences was going to the Sheldrick Falls. We walked for a total of 5km. It was extremely exhausting walking down to the falls with the ranger and our tour guide, Mr. Nick. When we saw the falls we all jumped into the water and had a good splash. Our class did not want to leave Shimba Hills and I hope we will all go back again.

Junior School events next week

A reminder of the exciting events taking place in the Junior School next week:

- The Annual Book Fair will take place from **Wednesday 1st to Friday 3rd March**. You can purchase books for your home library or come and have a browse. Please drop by the book stands which will be outside the Senior School Library.
- Book Character Day - Students are reminded to dress up as their favourite book character on **Thursday 2nd March**, and bring along the book to school, to share and discuss with their friends!
- Inter-House Swimming Gala - On **Friday 3rd March** students should come to school dressed in their PE kit with their house colour t-shirt, wearing their swimming costume under their clothes. Your child will need to bring their undergarment in their swimming bag, to wear after the gala, as he/she will take off their swimming costume. Kindly ensure your child has a towel, as well as their water bottle and a snack for break as we will be at the poolside until 12 noon. We will have a tuck shop for extra purchase of refreshments. You are all invited to come and watch the event. Classes will continue as normal in the afternoon.



Dates for your diary

February

Thursday 23 rd – Friday 24 th :	Half-Term break
Thursday 23 rd – Sunday 26 th	Kenya Swimming Federation Gala (Nairobi)
Monday 27 th	School resumes

March

Thursday 2 nd	Book Character Day (SRC Initiative)	
Wednesday 1 st – Friday 3 rd	Annual Book Fair	
Friday 3 rd	Inter-House Swimming Gala	8.00am – 12.00pm
Tuesday 7 th	U11 Boys Hockey vs Light Academy	3.00pm
Tuesday 7 th	U11 Girls Hockey vs Light Academy	3.00pm
Friday 24 th	Junior School Open Day	
	SRC Talent Show	

Please find attached the AKAM 2017-18 calendar. Note that it is subject to revision should there be any exceptional circumstances warranting any changes.

Wishing you a wonderful long weekend and we look forward to the students' return to school on Monday 27th February.

Kind regards,

Isla Gordon
Principal, Junior School

