

15th January, 2016

Dear Parents,

Hoping this finds you well and that 2016 promises to be a year of good health, happiness and prosperity for you and your family. Indeed, the children have returned to school and look happy to be back, refreshed and ready for a new term of learning.



Back to school

New Staff in the Junior School

This term we have new additions to our Junior School staff. As mentioned in my previous newsletter, Ms Michelle Perez has joined the team of Junior School teachers as a Homeroom Teacher for Year 4A. She will shortly communicate directly, with parents of students in her class.

We also have two new graduate teachers, Ms. Dorcas Kisilu and Mr. John Mbindyo, who have joined the team as part of our Academy's Teacher Preparation Programme (TPP). Dorcas will work alongside Ms. Esther Kariuki as a Kiswahili teacher for Years 4 and 5 and John has joined Ms. Hope Baraka in Year 3A. Please see their profiles in the attached document.

Reminder – Dates for the Calendar

We have attached with this newsletter, the latest version of the 2015-2016 Junior School calendar. Please note the following up-coming events this term:

- **18th January, 2016:** Junior School Enrichment Programme begins. Attached with this newsletter is further information on the clubs/activities provided by the school and by our external service providers
- **29th January, 2016:** Student progress reports will be made available to parents via the Managebac online facility.(You will receive an email shortly before, giving you access details)
- **5th February, 2016:** Year 1 Open House. Please join us for this event and bring along friends and family members who have children, who may be interested in joining the Academy
- **11th and 12th February:** 3-Way Conferences. You will shortly be receiving information to sign up for an appointment with your child and their Class Teacher. This event is part of the school's assessment practices in keeping parents informed, as well as students articulating their learning
- **11th and 12th February:** Book Fair and MYP Personal Project Presentation
- **15th February – 19th February:** Half-Term Break

Upcoming Sports Fixtures

Swimming

12 th -14 th February:	CASA Open & Age Group Swimming Championship 10+ Years
26 th – 29 February:	KSF Nationals Open and Age Group Swimming Championship LC, Nbi
12 th – 13 th March:	CASA Junior Swimming Championship
To be confirmed:	CASA International South-Africa Levels 1-3

Hockey

Tuesday 19 th January:	U11 Boys Hockey vs Oshwal (away)
Tuesday 26 th January:	U11 Girls Hockey vs Jaffrey Academy (home)
Tuesday 26 th January:	U11 Boys Hockey vs Jaffrey Academy (home)
Tuesday 9 th February:	U11 Girls Hockey vs Mombasa Academy (away)
Tuesday 9 th February:	U11 Boys Hockey vs Light Academy (home)
Tuesday 1 st March:	U11 Girls Hockey vs Braeburn (away)
Tuesday 7 th March:	U11 Boys Hockey vs Braeburn (away)
Tuesday 14 th March:	U11 Boys Hockey vs Mombasa Academy (away)

Friday Assemblies

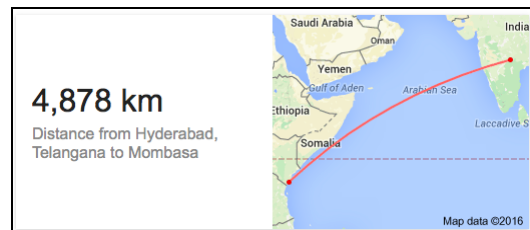
Friday 22 nd January:	Year 4K
Friday 29 th January:	Arts Week Assembly
Friday 5 th February:	Year 1A & 1K for Year 1 Open House
Friday 26 th February:	Year 2A & 2K
Friday 4 th March:	Arts Activity Week
Friday 11 th March:	Arts Activity Week



In celebrating different festivals in our special end of term assembly on 4th December 2015, we had the local press attend who later interviewed some of the students and faculty members in the Junior School. A few days later an article was published on the Baraka FM website, which can be viewed via this link: <http://barakafm.org/2015/12/07/joint-religious-festivals-for-aga-khan-school-pupils/>
I think you will agree with me that we have extremely articulate students who are able to communicate with great confidence with visitors to our school!

Learning in Year 2 – A Collaboration with AKA, Hyderabad - Beating the distance of 4,874km
(From Ms. Khona Bhattacharjee, PYP Coordinator)

We have begun the journey of forging closer ties to our sister school in Hyderabad, through an exciting skype session with the Year 2 students. As Year 2 in both the schools are exploring *physical features of places* in their Unit of Inquiry, their teachers have been collaborating since December 2015 to establish ideas in getting the students to enhance their learning on different perspectives, on the different landmarks and geographical features that define both places. On Wednesday 13th January we had the first skype session for the students to get to know each other better, and start discussing what they have learnt in the unit. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the session and also decided to exchange notes by writing letters to their peers, to share their new understanding. We are definitely privileged to be part of such a network of schools.



Year 2 skype session with AKA, Hyderabad

Terms dates

Finally, whilst we understand that it can be difficult to find flights that fit within the school holiday dates when travelling abroad, may I take this opportunity to write that we really want your child to avoid missing school days. The Academy has a policy that a student should not be out of school for more than **10%** of the school year.

We very much look forward to seeing many of you at school events over the course of this next term. It has been wonderful to have the students back at school these past two weeks.

Wishing you a relaxing and wonderful week-end.

Kind regards,

Isla Gordon
Principal, Junior School

