



Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2017

Dear Parents,

With warm wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2017!

Hoping you had a wonderful holiday; it is a pleasure to have the children back at school. Over the break we had some news from one of our teachers, Ms. Fridah Gatwiri, whose baby girl, Annika, was born on 17<sup>th</sup> December; a special gift to her Mum at Christmastime!

As Ms. Fridah's replacement, Mr. Kennedy Kariuki joined us last week to take up her P.E. teaching commitments whilst she is on maternity leave. Mr. Kariuki has a Bachelor's degree in Sports Science from Kenyatta University, experience in teacher training in Physical Education, as well as a primary school teaching qualification and experience. He is well qualified in multiple sports - hockey, athletics, ball games and swimming. He has received a warm welcome to the Academy from the students and staff and is settling in well.

We look forward to an eventful and exciting term ahead and the following provides some information for the upcoming week:

### **Enrichment Programme**

This term's enrichment programme begins on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January, for students from Year 1 to Year 5. Please find attached further information on the activities being offered. The students selected their activities this morning. For students using school transport, note that from next week the bus will depart at 4.00pm on Mondays and Tuesdays and at 3.00pm for the rest of the week. We kindly request that students are picked up from school on time at the end of the school day, as there is no supervision twenty minutes thereafter.

### **Your Child's Progress Report**

On the 31<sup>st</sup> January, you will be receiving via our online platform, Managebac, a copy of your child's end of Semester 1 Progress Report. Please do share this report with your child. This year, we will not be stopping classes for 3-Way Conferences, but instead will invite you to make an appointment with your child's teacher should you wish to see him/her following your child's report. A teacher may also get in touch with you should he/she wish to meet as a follow-up, to discuss in more detail the next steps for your child's progress.



## ISA Results

For parents of Year 3, 4 and 5 students, today your child will have brought to you from school a copy of the results from their International Schools' Assessment (ISA), which was sat in September 2016. For further information about this external assessment please consult the following link: <https://www.acer.edu.au/isa/fags>

## Welcome to 2017 Coffee Morning – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January

Next Thursday at 8.00am to 9.30am, the Junior School Leadership Team will be hosting a coffee morning for our parents in the library. This will be an opportunity to update you on events with regard to some of your 'wishes' for the school. If you are able to attend, and if there are any topics you would like us to raise during this coffee morning, please let the Junior School office know ahead of time at [rebecca.davis@agakhanacademies.org](mailto:rebecca.davis@agakhanacademies.org)

## Stories of Learning from your child's class

On Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> January, we plan to send you photos of children at work and learning from your child's class, from the past weeks at school.

## SRC – Talent Show



*Students - do you have a special ability or something you do really well?  
What is your hidden talent?*

We are fortunate to have an active SRC in school, with many events planned this term. A talent show, being organised by the SRC, will take place later this term. Auditions will be held from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January. The SRC executive members and some teachers will form the judging panel. Students interested in participating will sign up with their class representatives. Further information will be communicated to you closer to the event.

## Cutting back on sugar consumption

It is no secret that high levels of sugar in a child's diet is detrimental to many areas of their health, not least in keeping healthy teeth. As parents you probably put a lot of effort into monitoring your child's sugar in-take. As a school, we understand that our students enjoy bringing in, for example a cake, to school on their birthday and we encourage and believe that it is important for your child to celebrate their special day with their friends. However, we ask that from now, no sweets are to be sent to school to distribute amongst classmates. Apart from the safety issues of having students walking around with a lollipop stick in their mouth, this also means we (and you as their parents) have no means of monitoring how much sugar they are consuming. We thank you for supporting us with our 'No Sweets at School' agreement.

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## Year 1 Open House – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

Our annual Year 1 Open House will be held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, from 8.00am to 11.00am. This is an event where we invite students and parents who are interested in joining the Academy in the next academic year. If you have any family members or friends to whom you would recommend the Academy for their child, please let them know of the event. The telephone contacts for the Admissions Department are: 0737 696 930/0736 200 008.

### Some dates for the diary:

| <b>January</b>  |   |
|---|---|
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> January                           | In-school enrichment starts for all Junior School students (Mondays and Tuesdays) |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> January                           | External enrichment provider clubs start  |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>                                  | U11 Boys and U11 Girls Hockey vs Braeburn (H)                                     |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> January                         | Welcome Back Coffee Morning (8.00am – 9.30am)                                     |
| Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January                          | U11 Boys and U11 Girls Hockey vs Mombasa Academy (A)                              |
| Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January                          | Student Progress reports sent home via Managebac                                  |
| <b>February</b>   |   |
| Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February                         | Year 5 Parent Meeting - Exhibition Unit of Inquiry (5.00pm)                       |
| Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February                           | U11 Boys and U11 Girls Hockey vs Jaffery Academy (H)                              |
| Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February                           | Year 1 Open House (7.45am – 11.00am)  |
| Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> - Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> February   | Whole School IB Evaluation Visit from external team                               |
| Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> February | School closed (half-term)   |
| <b>March</b>  |   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> March                  | Annual Book Fair  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> March                                     | Junior School Inter-House Swimming Gala   |

Please find attached an updated copy of the Junior School calendar of events for the next semester as well as a letter regarding extra music lessons.

Wishing you a wonderful week-end.

Kind regards,

Isla Gordon  
Principal, Junior School

