



The Aga Khan Academy Mombasa, Newsletter

October 2012

Dates to remember

- Musical Showcase
Thursday
15 November, 5.30-7pm
- MYP Information Meeting, Thursday
29 November
4.15-5.15 pm
- 2nd Annual Zawadi Bazaar, Saturday
1 December

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‘No reserve, No retreat, No regrets’

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Last week we hosted a number of prospective Year 6 students and parents who were participating in our student admissions selection assessments. We congratulated them all on making it through to the final round of assessments. We also reminded them that it was not easy to gain a place at the Academy and that if they were selected then years of hard work lie ahead of them! However, they were also told of some of the benefits of an Academy IB education – the many opportunities on offer both inside and outside the Academy, the IB ‘gold standard’ of international education opening doors to many of the world’s top universities, and the expectations that many would go on to leadership positions both in Kenya and abroad.

The leadership dimension of the Academy reminds me of a true story. Bill Borden was an American from a famous family who gave up a privileged position in society to build churches in China. By all accounts his work was ground-breaking and laid the foundations for future successes. He died in a rural area of China and when friends found his body three days later there was a note in his hand which read ‘No Reserve... No Retreat... No Regrets’. No reserve – hold nothing back; No retreat – don’t look back or step back; No regrets – not ashamed or double minded; sure in decision-making. The Bill Borden story speaks of commitment and dedication, key ingredients for success and leadership. We don’t expect that our students will be tested to the same extent but for most of us, success does



Rob Burrough

require whole-hearted commitment and hard work. There are no easy shortcuts!

Our best wishes to all of our students as they work hard to achieve their academic and co-curricular goals. We know that you can do it – we wouldn’t have selected you otherwise!

Best wishes

Rob Burrough
Head of Academy



Team Aga Khan: swimmers participating in the KSF Championships hosted at the Academy 26-28 October

Staff News

We recently welcomed Mr Byron Otieno who has joined the IT department. He comes to us from the non-governmental organisation, Computers for Schools Kenya.

Congratulation to Ms Sehr Tejpar who received her post-graduate diploma in Islamic Studies at a ceremony held at the Institute of Ismaili Studies in London over the mid-term break, having completed the Graduate Programme in Islamic Studies and Humanities.

Congratulations to Ms Fatuma Ismael who was married during the half-term break. Our best wishes to the happy couple.

Former student Kashyap Gohel was the proud Kenyan flag bearer at the One Young World Summit held in Pittsburgh PA in the United States over 18-22 October. At this annual Summit the young generation's brightest and best debate and formulate solutions for the pressing issues the world faces. After each

Summit, the newly-minted One Young World Ambassadors, work on their own projects to drive positive change in their communities, companies and countries. Kashyap is currently assisting in the Drama Department until a new drama teacher is appointed.

Mr Jeremiah Ndune is a Teaching Assistant in the Music Department until the end of the Academic year while he completes research for his degree in International Teachers' Education at Kenyatta University.

Notices and Coming Events

Musical Showcase A showcase concert will be held from 5.30-7pm on 15 November, of work done so far this term by music students from both Junior and Senior school. The audience will be taken on a trip around the world with performances of pieces from Kenya, Italy, Scotland... and more. There will be a mix of solo and ensemble pieces by piano, string and vocal performers and the audience is assured of an enjoyable evening. All most welcome.

MYP Information Meeting The next information meeting will be held on Thursday 29 November from 4.15-5.15pm. The topic will be Assessment and Reporting in MYP and comes just before trimester 1 reports. The meeting will include a question and answer session. Parents and Guardians are welcome to send any questions on MYP by email to the Vice Principal Middle Years Programme, Mr [David Ochieng](#). All parents and guardians of MYP students are most welcome.

The 2nd Annual Zawadi Bazaar, Saturday, 1 December Last year the Academy held the 1st Zawadi Bazaar, a Craft and Fun Fair, with a live DJ, musical performances, a raffle, games for the kids, a food court, and excellent holiday shopping from 21 vendors. This raised over 160,000 KShs, and led to the establishment of a Citizenship Fund which has been used to support a wide range of Academy student community service projects. Now we need your help to make this year's Zawadi Bazaar even bigger and better than last year! Please mark your calendars, and if you are interested in donating a raffle prize, or renting a stall, or helping to organise the event then please contact Ms [Nicole Nikolaidis](#) by email or phone: 0734287850. And don't forget to tell your friends and neighbours.



Supporting the Swim Team at the KSF Championships

On the Reading Recovery Road

AKAM has begun a reading programme which is already showing signs of being a success. It was introduced in early August by our specialist teacher Mrs Veronica Telford and is designed to assist students in their early school days. It involves one-to-one lessons for up to 40 minutes a day for a period of between 12-20 weeks. During the programme the student reads many little books. A new book is introduced each day and a familiar book is

taken home each evening for practice along with homework tasks for learning how to construct sentences.

Because the needs of each student are different, the programme is individually tailored. The focus is on understanding and constructing written messages and the goal is to bring students up to the level of their peers and to help them develop independent reading and writing skills. Once the goal is reached the

lessons are discontinued.

Although it is still early days, we are already seeing the benefit to students who were reluctant readers who have made positive progress and gains in fluency. Some of our Year 2 students are already nearing their target level and we expect their lessons to finish at the end of the term. This will be a great achievement for them; it is good to see students on the road to success.



Residential Cultural Evening

It is good to see students on the road to success.

Community and Service

Community and Service is a requirement in all the MYP years and naturally derives from the IB Mission Statement. It aims to develop responsible citizenship 'through intercultural understanding and respect', and encourages service for learning.

We would like to find

more contacts for organisations, institutions and projects where students can engage in service for learning. Please send details to the Vice Principal Middle Years Programme, Mr [David Ochieng](#).

Please describe the nature of activity you would like students to engage in and

when these activities are scheduled for. We would also love to be part of local and global events, eg, World Aids Day, World Environment Day, Coast Hospice, Dettol Heart Run, Diabetes Day etc, that will enable our students to be involved in service learning.



Zaena Mbugua performing at the Dream Alive concert

Dream Alive at the Little Theatre Club

On 5 October our vocal groups were invited to take part in a local music/drama concert organised by the Jukwaa Initiative. Jukwaa is a

collective of professionally minded musicians and actors, intent on making Mombasa a cultural centre and providing a

platform (*jukwaa*) for performance. Our choir sang the *National Anthem*, *Peace Song* and *Lean on Me*, to a full house.



SRC Retreat

Student Representative Council Retreat

The SRC retreat over the weekend of 29-30 September was a rousing success. Staff members Mr Chase Taylor and Ms Heidi Oxley accompanied the newly elected student representatives to Diani to beautiful accommodation and mouth-watering food generously provided by Pinewood Beach Resort. An initial focus was for student committees to work on a proposal-giving activity where each committee identified an issue on campus and formulated their own unique and creative event to change the campus culture for the better. The Committees then spent time planning various events for the year followed by team building activities on the beach. In the evening the students enjoyed a magnificent Mongolian Barbecue and afterwards made sandcastles in an activity organised by the House Captains.

Congratulations to all of the new SRC members and good luck with the promising plans that have been made for the future.

Aga Khan Swim Team

The Swim Team has competed in 2 major events recently. The first was the CASA Open where the Boys were runners-up and the Girls came in first place; Team Aga Khan was the overall winner.

In the KSF National Championships, held over 26-28 October, the team took 13 Gold, 12 Silver and 3 Bronze medals and overall the team was placed third in the Championships.

Karan Khagram set a national record in the 200 m individual medley, while Shiv Vaghela set a national record in the 50 m backstroke and set meet records in the 50 m butterfly and 50 m freestyle.

It was the first time the new team uniforms had been worn so the team not only looked great but also swam really well. Congratulations to swimmers and coaches.



Ready to start:
swimmers at the KSF
Championships

Junior School Successes

Junior school participants in the annual Mombasa Open Chess Championships which took place on 20-21 October won several prizes. Mahek Shah was best under 8 year old while her younger sister in Year 1, Haimi Shah, was best in the Under 6 year old category. Rahul Doshi was the best under 10 year old whilst Jay Morjaria was happy to have participated in the event and being a PYP learner said, "It is not about winning but having the confidence to challenge a partner who is many years old than me". Congratulations to all the Junior School Chess champions.

On the international front, Alyssa Jamal took part in a competition held in August and has once again received an art award. She was one of the runners-up in *The Last Polar Bears – My Arctic Animal Competition*. The theme of the competition was *Create a Comic for Conservation - Help the Polar Bears Through Creativity*. Alyssa's art work was in 3D, and included the use of cotton wool for the Polar Bear. She got her inspiration from books, television and the internet. Congratulations to Alyssa.



Alyssa Jamal's prize-winning entry

On-line Resources

Parents have requested information about on-line resources that students will find useful. The library subscribes to 2 major databases:

JSTOR This can be accessed when on school premises via a secure IP address.

Questia Users need to have a password created in order to be able to access this site.

Both provide access to extensive collections of academic journals and books. JSTOR includes scholarship published in more than 1,400 of the highest-quality academic journals across the humanities, social sciences, and sciences, as well as books and other materials. Questia is particularly aimed at high school level students. It includes research and paper writing tools and online quizzes and tutorials.

Some other freely available and informative websites are:

www.ted.com informative free talks on many subject areas

www.economist.com weekly newspaper focusing on international politics and business

www.guardian.co.uk British-based newspaper with strong global appeal

www.thersa.org/events/rsaanimate animated talks by prominent intellectuals

www.gutenberg.org free downloadable books

www.cyberschoolbus.un.org United Nations site about global issues and the UN.

MUN: Engaging in Constructive Dialogue

The Commons was abuzz over 5-6 October when more than 80 students from Year 7 to DP2 gathered to participate in the 6th Annual Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa Model United Nations Conference. The two days were filled with contentious and energetic debate on issues such as censorship, violence in Syria, Palestinian statehood, nuclear weapons in Iran and North Korea, violence in South Sudan, the dispute between China and Japan over the Diaoyu / Senkaku islands and human rights issues in Uganda and Zimbabwe. Debate often went over time, with delegates



Delegates to the MUN with the Flag of the United Nations

asking for more time to discuss each issue.

At the heart of MUN is encouraging students to engage in critical and constructive dialogue on issues of global significance. These topics are often complex and multi-faceted and navigating through them is no simple task for an adult, let alone a 13 or 16

year old. Our students engaged with the issues in a deep and meaningful way, without being shy to treat topics with the complexity they deserve.

Congratulations to the Best Speaker award winners: Bevertone Ochieng (MYP) and Omar Mohamed (DP) and to all those who participated in this event.

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