



## **The Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa Newsletter April 2012**

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Watching the very talented and entertaining AND1 American performance basketball team play the local Mombasa Men's team at the Academy at the weekend brought to mind a number of important messages – strive for excellence in whatever field you compete in; sacrifice and commitment to practice brings resulting rewards; find enjoyment in whatever you do; shared passion and dreams crosses boundaries; career pathways may not always be from a traditional route; and the fact that the local Mombasa basketball team is both talented and can compete well against international competition. There are many messages found in sport which have application in other fields – including the academic arena. We are sure that the current DP 2 students are practicing hard for the coming examinations which begin in less than two weeks, and just as in sport the rewards for sacrifice, commitment and dedication will come. Our very best wishes to all candidates – and may they each achieve personal bests!

Other features of the last month include an increase in the number of end-of-term academic honours awards from 29 to 41 compared to the previous term; the Drexel University presentation featuring a very successful former student; the DP2 portfolio presentations; Junior School Maths family fun night; Senior School Parent Teacher conferences and attached MAD night and Parents Association meeting; a very successful 'Because I am a Girl' concert featuring national icon Wahu; six medals in swimming at the South African international championships; the annual Cerebral Palsy sponsored walk; the ongoing PDC outreach activities with government teachers and educators; and confirmation of Nation Media Group chairman, Mr Wilfred Kiboro as guest speaker at the DP Graduation ceremony in June.

A reminder that due to the 1 May national holiday there is a four day weekend for students and teachers this coming weekend. The Academy will be closed on Monday 30 April and Tuesday 1 May.

Best wishes for the month ahead.

**Rob Burrough**  
**Head of Academy**

## Student Successes

**Senior Awards Ceremony** Forty one students received honours awards at this term's awards assembly. This increase from 29 to 41 awards is a significant improvement in overall academic performance compared to the previous term. This result is consistent with the recent DP2 Mock Exam results which were on average 3.1 marks higher than last year.

**UBC Leadership Scholarships** Congratulations to Aleem Mawji and Mirabelle Arodi who have been awarded the two prestigious University of British Columbia International Leader of Tomorrow scholarships starting this coming academic year. These scholarships cover full tuition fees and provide a good living allowance. Aleem and Mirabelle follow three other Academy graduates who have won this scholarship in recent years.

**South Africa Swimming Championships** Seven Academy swimmers gained 6 top 3 places at the South African international championships, and all made finals. Malindi Vaughan gained two gold and 1 silver medal; Karan Khagram won a bronze and broke a national record in the 200m backstroke; Njua Njuguna won a silver medal; and Sabrina Kassam made 4 finals.

**Senior Girls Basketball** The girls were placed second in the Provincial Championships held at Taita. This is a most creditable performance.

**MAD Night** A very successful evening's entertainment of Music, Art and Drama, featuring top student performances from the Academy and 5 other schools was held on the last evening before the Easter break:

Results: Overall Best Performance and Best Solo Singer: Adams Galgalo; 1st Runner-up Solo Singing Naomi Makau; 2nd Runner-up Solo Singing Maureen Mulinge; Best Student Band Aleesha Suleiman, Louis Curry and Aleesha Suleiman; Best Instrumental Group: Aahil Malik and Louis Curry; Best Dance Tulsi Vyas.

## Staff News

Last week we farewelled Mr and Mrs Alidina who are returning to the USA to be with family. Mr Alidina has been a very hardworking Head of Finance and Mrs Alidina equally effective in the Health Centre. This week we farewell Mrs Betty Bockle who has

been at the Academy and the former Aga Khan School for the past 18 years. Mrs Bockle's commitment, dedication and affection for the students was acknowledged by the Senior School at a recent assembly. We thank each of the above staff for their service to the Academy and we wish them well for the future.

Last week we welcomed Mr Amir Vellani as the new Head of Finance, Mr Tony Ryan as the incoming Head of Expressive Arts, and Mrs Ursula Ryan as the Manager, Communications, Events and Extension Programmes.

## Other Highlights

Further highlights over the last month include:

**Senior School Parent Teacher Conferences** These were held just before Easter to enable the residential families to attend, and also attend the Parents Association meeting and the MAD Night concert on the Friday evening.

**Drexel University Graduate** Former student Elias Okwara and the Drexel Admissions Officer gave a presentation on the Drexel experience this month to interested students and parents. They were accompanied by a number of media and we received some good media coverage. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mazifUpSQM>

**DP Portfolio of Achievement presentation** The annual 'show and tell' by DP2 students was cause for celebration.

**Junior School Spelling Bee Challenge** and the **Maths Family Fun Night** were both popular events held just before Easter.

**Tsavo Trip** The Year 5 students enjoyed their annual field-trip to Tsavo Game Reserve learning about responsible tourism.

**Wahu Concert** A most successful concert in the amphitheatre by one of Kenya's premier musical artists organised by our 'Because I am a Girl' club and sponsored by DTB raised nearly 500,000 for this charity work with underprivileged girls.

**The Cerebral Palsy Foundation Annual 10 km Sponsored Walk/Jog/Ride** took place on Sunday 11th March at the Bamburi Nature Trails. Again the majority of the participants came from AKA, M and it was an excellent "team" effort raising funds for this worthwhile charity.

## Notices

**2012 / 2013 School Calendar** Please see the confirmed calendar attached. We have tried to accommodate Kenyan families who holiday at Christmas by having a 3 ½

week break at that time, plus there will be a 2 week break at Easter. We have listened to the parents who spoke at the recent Parents Association meeting and we have not implemented the original plan to bring the annual holidays forward another week. To reduce the effects of a long stretch from mid-August to mid-December we have increased the October break to 1 ½ weeks. In order to keep to the required number of days that the school is open we have reduced some of the half term breaks.

Residential students will be required to vacate the residences at Christmas, Easter and the long July / August break.

## **Coming Events**

### **April**

26 Year 7 Parents' Information Evening  
27 JS Inter-house swim gala  
28 Music Cultural Festival  
30 School closed

### **May**

1 Public holiday – school closed  
2 DP- examinations begin  
7 MYP & DP-1 exams begin  
8 Grade 1 assessment  
25 Senior Ball  
28 – Jun 1<sup>st</sup> DP Group 4 Trip  
28 Malone Dress rehearsal (with audience)  
29 – 30 Bussy Malone Show (Times: 18:30 to 21:00)

### **June**

9 Graduation Ceremony  
11 – 12 Extended Essay days  
13 Official opening of Year 6 Exhibition Show case from 17:00 to 19:00  
14 – 15 Year 6 Exhibition Show case at 08:30 to 15:00 on Tuesday then 08:30  
12:00 on Wednesday  
14 – 17 ESS & Geog. Trip  
22 Awards Ceremony  
End of Academic Year; 12 noon finish.