



The Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa Newsletter August 2011

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Karibuni sana! A warm welcome to all as you look forward to the beginning of the new school year next week. A special welcome to all new students and families. We are sure that you will enjoy being part of our school community and we look forward to helping you settle into school life over the coming days and weeks. We trust that everyone was able to enjoy some relaxing vacation time with friends and family over the past month.

For those observing Ramadan we wish you strength, harmony and peace.

Congratulations to last year's IB Diploma and IGCSE students on some very good individual results. Overall the DP average was not quite as good as last year whereas the IGCSE results were better than last year. We are reviewing our processes to ensure that student performance continues to improve each year in line with our strategic planning goals.

As a result of roll growth, the creation of extra positions to due extra funding from the Academies Unit, and some teacher resignations, we have been able to appoint a number of new staff. These include:

Mike Duckworth	SS HOD Science
Heidi Oxley	SS HOD PE
Geoff Holt	HOD Sports
Amal Hirani	SS Maths teacher
David Ochola	SS French Teacher
Tazim Koorjee	JS Science Coordinator & AK Strands Coordinator
Crystal Gregory	JS Language Coordinator
Beatrice Mecha	JS Teacher

Anne Weke	JS Teacher
Safiya Jetha	Teaching Fellow
Jacob Keet	Teaching Fellow
Lindsay Thompson	Teaching Fellow
Alishah Kassam	Procurement Manager
Martin Kamui	Business Analyst
Jason Whitnell	Training Coordinator and Administration
Debbie Duckworth	Senior Nurse
Safia Alidina	Student liaison & health centre records

We congratulate them on their appointments and we wish them well for their time at the Academy.

We currently have three Outreach programmes running in the school - the Certificate of Leadership and Management for local primary principals, the Tier 2 English language programme for local teachers and the Training of Trainers programme for lecturers and teacher experts who will be expanding the English language training programme. This week we are also hosting delegates for the International Federation for Information Processing conference in the Commons. The conference was opened by the Assistant Minister of Education, the Hon Calist Mwatela.

A number of students represented the Academy over the holidays. See below for more details including the wonderful choral successes.

Thanks to those families who have paid their school fees. With classes starting on Monday Term 1 fees are now overdue. Please read the fees notice below for details regarding late payment.

Also see below for the Monday starting time and whole school assembly to launch the new school year.

We look forward to together continuing to build on the foundations already laid in order to take the Academy to the next level. Working in partnership we strive for excellence in the classroom, in co-curricular activities, and in our behaviour and ethics.

Best wishes for a most successful year ahead.

Rob Burrough
Head of Academy

Highlights of the last month

Kenyan School Choral Competition – Champions!! Congratulations to all those Academy students who participated in the national competitions in Nakuru last month. Our students won five first placings, nine seconds and four thirds. They were judged the top Kenyan music school and appeared on national TV. A fantastic achievement all round!! Special thanks and congratulations to the Choral Director, Mr Philip Agutu, Head of Music Mr Otieno Onyango, the other music staff and to the parents who supported and accompanied the students. More details later.

Football Trip to Scandinavia The Junior School boys' football team enjoyed a successful trip to Denmark over the holidays, competing in the Dana Cup, winning two games, drawing one and losing three. Special thanks to coach Mr Anthony Ndungu and the four parents who accompanied the team. More details later.

Notices

School Fees For each academic year the school fees are due by the beginning of August, November and March. Please note that our fees are calculated on an annual basis but are divided into three equal installments for ease of payment.

Individual fees letters and invoices for the 2011-12 academic year were sent in June. The first installment payment is due before the first day of school. For those that have already made the payments, we thank you for your promptness. If you haven't completed your payments yet, please do so before Monday 22 August. *For your convenience, the Bursar's Office will be open this Saturday, 20 August from 9:00am to 1:00 pm, in addition to the regular business hours.*

A late fee is payable for payments received from Monday. Families who have not paid the fees by the end of August will be asked to keep their child/ren at home from 1 September. We regret having to take this action but like all families we too have to balance our budget.

We acknowledge the impact that our fees increases will have on families who are also struggling to balance their own budgets. Families with financial hardship are able to approach the Finance Department to discuss their particular situation. Financial Aid continues to be available for families in need.

The School Weekly Timetable A reminder that we have new bell times for this academic year. Main changes are that the Wednesday half day for students will cease; academic classes will finish at 2.45pm each day for all students with clubs and other activities (including faculty professional development) occurring after this time until 4.00pm; and the bell times for the Junior and Senior Schools will be more closely aligned to enable teaching and interaction across both schools. There will still be separate break times. School begins each day at 7.45am.

2011 – 2012 Year Calendar This is again attached for reference.

Year Book 2010 – 2011 Students who have paid for this wonderful and colourful summary of last year are still able to collect their copy from the Principal's PA in the Junior School or Senior School. Families who have not purchased a copy are able to buy one from the Bursar's Office for 1000KES. First come, first served.

AKA,M Car Stickers Parents are able to collect this year's car stickers from Reception.

Monday 22 August Starting Arrangements

7.45am All students report to school as follows:

Junior School students meet in the Quadrangle.

Senior School report to the following Year Level Assembly points:

Year 7	Amphitheatre
Year 8	Courtyard between the two SS Blocks
Year 9	Upstairs in Humanities Block
Year 10	Tamu Balcony
DP	Baraza Courtyard

8.00am Whole School Assembly (Multi-Purpose Hall)

8.30am Senior School / Junior School Assemblies followed by classes after morning break