



The Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa Newsletter June 2011

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

Three of the photos above are of the new Commons after the building site fences have been removed. The building is certainly a stunning addition to the architecture and facilities of the school. The main dining room is able to seat 550 people in one setting, plus there are three private dining rooms for smaller and special functions. A large open server area under the glassed music performance area (pictured above) is supported by a huge underground state-of-the-art commercial kitchen. Adjacent to the music performance room on the first floor are three music teaching spaces, a small dance studio and four itinerant practice rooms, plus a Health Centre with offices and recovery rooms.

This last weekend the Commons had its first official functions with the first annual Senior Ball, and as the venue for the post-Graduation function. The Graduation ceremony itself was held for the last time in the MPH as we are still awaiting the arrival of the Commons furniture.

We congratulate the DP2 graduands on their hard work over the past two years, and their undoubted success in the recent Diploma examinations and their applications to university. A complete list of the graduands and their likely destination is found elsewhere in this newsletter. It is encouraging when talking to a number of these students to realise how appreciative they are of the opportunities they have received at the Academy. They have gained much at the Academy through academic endeavour, sporting and musical pursuits, and community service, and these opportunities have enabled them to pursue their goals at universities in North America, the United Kingdom, Africa, Australia, Asia and the Middle East. We look forward to following their progress in the years to come as they make an impact in many different fields and communities throughout the world.

Attached to this newsletter are important notices about school fees, year calendar and weekly timetables for Junior and Senior Schools which relate to the new academic year. Each is explained in more detail in the Notices section below.

Best wishes for the month ahead.

Rob Burrough
Head of Academy

Highlights of the last month

Teaching and Learning

Senior School

- IB and IGCSE exams have taken place.
- School MYP exams. To complement the modular nature of MYP teaching, we have introduced examinations to be sat once a year.
- MYP Curriculum and Assessment Handbooks are being finalised.
- **Personal project** The Year 9 students have started on their Personal Project and received the new Students' Guide. Every student has now met their supervisors for the first time.
- **DP-1 Group 4 Trip to Tsavo** The students of DP-1 have completed the mandatory Group 4 trip to Tsavo. The trip was designed to be an interdisciplinary trip that includes the sciences, Swahili, English, TOK, CAS and Extended Essay.
- **Admission to Y7/MYP.** Letters of offer have been given to Year 6 families.

Junior School

- Collaborative review of Programme of Inquiry is underway
- Increasing use of SS Humanities, Mathematics and Science teachers in collaborative planning is noted.
- Living Values programme to be integrated into PYP programme next year rather than as a stand alone subject.

Whole School

- **Whole faculty Professional Development** Two training sessions on Assessment have been undertaken by staff.
- Book Fair to encourage reading occurred on 28 May.

External Outreach

- **Collaborative Discussion Forum** - 'Encouraging students to be responsible for their own lives' focused on AIDS issues was held for local government teachers on 14 May
- **Introduction to IT.** A 5 days introduction to technology for local head teachers and teachers of English was held.
- **PLES Leadership course and AKU CPE English course** continued full time over the Easter break.

Co-Curricular

National Junior Swimming Championships (highest junior swimming event in Kenya) was held on 14th and 15th May at Oshwal Academy. The Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa swimmers broke several national and CASA records, Karan Khagram broke the 9 year old 25m backstroke record and also smashed the 25m butterfly meet record. The Academy's 9 year old boys' medley relay team comprising of Mansoor Pirbhai, Preet Savla, Abdulhaleem Mabisi and Karan Khagram broke the national record of 2:46:09 which was held by Strathmore School. The new record now stands at 2:21:24. The Aga Khan Academy girls' team clinched 4th place in the girls' category and the **AKA, Mombasa boys' team was declared the 2011 National Junior Swimming Champions**. Congratulations!

Coast Junior Swimming Championships The Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa team won the Best Girls Team Trophy, the Best Boys Team Trophy and the school was the Best Overall Team. Tiana Vora was the best 7 year old female swimmer; Kunaal Khagram was the best 7 year old male swimmer with Aheer Chatterjee 3rd; Urvi Dayal was 2nd in the 10 years girls; Shaan Vora was placed 2nd in the 10 year boys' category; and Katie White was ranked 3rd in the 11 year girls.

Coast Secondary Schools Provincial Athletics Championships. Our school was represented by the following students who were part of the Mombasa District Athletics Team: **Faith Odera** (1500m and 5000m), **Lillian Odera** (High Jump and 400m) , **Zainab Mnyetto** (4 x 100m, 100m and 200m), **Xenia Karungu** 200m and 4 x 100m), **Ulfat Faraji**(800m), **Rachael Ayugi** (100m Hurdles, 400m, and 4 x 400m), **Michelle Tiren** (Shot Put, Discuss and Triple Jump), **Christine Oginga** (High Jump) and **William Chengo** (Long Jump). Zainab qualified for both the 100m and 200m finals placing 5th and 6th, with William placed 2nd in the long Jump with a personal record of 6.44 meters. William was selected to be part of the Coast Province Team that that traveled to Meru for the National Championships where he was placed 4th. A creditable performance.

Mombasa Term 2 Sport Winners

U11 Boys Hockey The Aga Khan Academy
U11 Girls Hockey The Aga Khan Academy
U13 Boys Hockey Braeburn M.I.S
U13 Girls Hockey The Aga Khan Academy
U16 Boys Hockey Braeburn M.I.S
U16 Girls Hockey Mombasa Academy
U19 Boys Soccer Light Academy
Open Boys Water Polo The Aga Khan Academy

Mombasa U11 AKAM Football Tournament For the seventh year in a row the Under 11 Foot ball team won the Annual AKA,M Tournament.

Mombasa U9 AKAM Football Tournament The AKA,M boys team was undefeated in this tournament, and conceded no goals.

Residential

- **Dorm Captain Training** occurred for all captains, many of whom are newly appointed.
- **Leadership** A core group led by Mr Bardai has developed a strong proposal for extended and revamped student leadership opportunities. Three major changes are being developed: first, all activities and leadership opportunities are being grouped into three ‘clusters’; second, a mentorship programme is being piloted in Year 9; and finally, the Students’ Representative Council is being reformed. More details next term.

Admissions

- **Year 1 Intake for August 2011** Most places are now filled.
- **Presentations** A presentation about the Academy is due to take place at The Serena in Nairobi on June 18. A presentation is also being scheduled for Nakuru for Friday 24 June.
- **Identification Of Talent** A meeting to introduce the Identification of Talent for 2011-2012 in the rural and northeastern regions of Mombasa is currently taking place.

Maintenance:

- **Drive thru:** The new one way system has eased the congestion at the main gate.

Community

- **Parents Association** The monthly meeting centered on the Academy fee increases (18 – 24% increases) for the next academic year, and other topics were raised in general discussion. It was felt that one full meeting a term was preferable to a meeting each month due to the low numbers attending. The committee would continue to meet monthly.

Notices

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

As discussed at the Parents Association Meeting, every student is currently heavily subsidized at the Academy and tuition fees would need to increase by an average of 74% to break even on operating costs. We are working towards increasing income through revenue generating activities such as running conferences, offering short stay holiday programmes, hiring our facilities and approaching donors. However, over time we also need to increase our school fees which are currently generally well below national and international schools in Kenya which offer the IB curriculum. Next year our fees will rise by 18 – 22%. However, the Activities Fee has been eliminated.

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.

Revised Academic School Year This is attached. Following consultation to more closely align the Academy year with the IB Diploma examinations we have slightly modified our original proposal. We will now move our academic year back by one week each year for the next two years in order to finish school closer to the end of the DP examinations. This means that the academic year will start one week earlier each year. We also plan to use several Saturdays for Junior School and Senior School Athletics sports and Parent Teacher conferences in order to minimise the impact on effective learning time during the school week, and to enable more residential parents to join the school community at these events.

The School Weekly Timetable The new bell times for the next academic year are attached. Main changes are that the Wednesday half day for students will cease; academic classes will finish at 2.40pm 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.

Junior School Production Regrettably we have had to postpone the Year 1 to 3 drama production “Mumbi” until next term due to unforeseen circumstances. The performances were scheduled to take place this term on Thursday and Friday 24th and 25th June. They will now occur on Thursday and Friday 6th and 7th October, just before half term in the first trimester in the next academic year. We apologize for any inconvenience caused.

Coming Events

June	17	Kiswahili Day
	23	Kenya District Music Finals
	28	Kenya Provincial Music Finals
	30	Junior School End of Year Award Ceremony, MPH 08:30
July	1	End of Term
		Final Whole school Assembly at 12 noon followed by dismissal
	27	Kenya National Music Finals, Nakuru.

Class of 2011 DP Graduates Destinations

Name	University	Program of Study
Nafisa Abdulhamid	University of Alberta, Canada	Political Science
Lubaina Mustafa Adamjee	GAP YEAR	Work Experience at Aga Khan Hospital
Cecil Adede	University of Saskatchewan, Canada	Civil Engineering and Architecture
Eliza Alarakhia	University of Waterloo, Canada	Business
Arjun Singh Asan	University of Huddersfield, UK	Contemporary Art
Moez K Dungarwalla	St. George's University, UK	Medicine
Terry Wambui Gakuru	University of Western Ontario, Canada	Political Science
Kashyap Gohel	Jomo Kenyatta University, Kenya	Architecture
Atiya Harunani	GAP YEAR	Work Experience in an Administration
Gary Lee Maxie Howai	Brunel University, UK	Sports Management
Shaneabbas Jagani	De Montfort University, Leicester, UK	Green Energy Technology
Shezin Nazib Jiwa	University of Kent, UK	Pharmacy
Rishad Kabar	Trent University, Canada	Applied Physics
Stephen Makau Kimanzi	University of British Columbia, Canada	Civil Engineering
Alyhussayn Nazir Khambiye	University of Waterloo, Canada	Chemical Engineering
Immaculate Koigi	University of Birmingham, UK	International Business
Zahid Mohamedzakir Ladha	University of British Columbia, Canada	Civil Engineering
Sajni Rajen Malde	Reading University, UK	Mathematics and Economics
Saaika Merali	Savannah College of Art and Design, USA	Graphic Design and Advertising
Soraiya Merali	University of Birmingham, UK	Law
Salima Mitha	University of Waterloo, Canada	International Development
Khadija Amiyo Mohamed	University of Nairobi, Kenya	Medicine and Surgery
Marion Mwanganyi	SP Jain Institute of Management, Singapore	Management
Hrishikesh Venu Nair	University of Waterloo, Canada	Management Engineering
Joan Nyangena	University of York, Toronto	Finance
Zilna Rajesh Shavdia	University of British Columbia, Canada	Architecture and Fine Arts
Tasin Zafferhusein Sheikh	University of Queensland, Australia	Finance
Nausheen Sumar	University of Cape Town, South Africa	Medicine
Maria Giada Vischi	University of Victoria, Canada	Latin Languages