

PYP MIRROR



from..

The Aga Khan Academy, Hyderabad

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From the Head of Academy

Let me start by wishing you all a very happy holiday. I hope you will have time to spend as a family and to celebrate the joys that family life brings. Thank you also for the welcome you have given me over the last four months. It has been a very busy and interesting time, I have enjoyed becoming part of the community and I am looking forward to the next few years with keen anticipation. I am particularly looking forward to continuing inquiring into the process of getting to know you as individuals next term.

This term has been a very busy one, full of activity, achievement and development. I have enjoyed observing and taking part and planning the future over the last few months. I am filled with wonder at the opportunities this school and His Highness's vision have given me and all members of the community.

One of the fundamental values and objectives of the Academy is 'Leadership'. It is an area that we will continue to focus on in the future. But it is wonderful to recognize how many students and staff are picking up the challenge of leadership and by doing so adding to what we are as a school and community. Some examples are, Model United Nations, Student Councils, and teachers delivering IB workshops and outreach training, The Tempest, Social Service, Community Service and the active leadership of so many staff in the ongoing development of the school.

We are all staff, students and parents engaged in an extraordinary adventure - to create an extraordinary school : what better endeavor can there be.

Have a great holiday.

Dr. Geoffrey Fisher
Head of Academy



From the Junior School Principal

2014 - What a year!!

So, have we really come to the end of another calendar year? Yes, we have!

Without realizing it, we have completed one full year of the Junior School as an authorized IB World School. Another term of this academic year concurrently comes to a successful end. This academic term has been interspersed with progressively exciting events. We've had several delightful occasions to meet the parent community. With the weather cooling down, the colds and other minor illnesses did not dampen the energy level among the staff and student. The student report cards bear witness to their academic and non-academic performance. We are proud of every single student in the PYP for his or her efforts and progress made since August this year. Ladies and gentlemen, put your hands together for the teachers without whom this wouldn't have been possible.

To recap a few of the milestone events this term: the term started with a musical concert by the JS students showcasing their learning in music lessons and their talents in playing various instruments. Introduction of the House system was another landmark and we got the opportunity to trial it on the Sports day. We envisaged this system to encourage healthy competition among the JS students without marring or diluting the spirit and harmony of being a community. We successfully concluded our first teacher exchange programme with AKA, Mombasa. I am very pleased with the turn-out at the parent information session and the sports day. The term was also punctuated with several excellent assemblies.

To align with the core mission of the academy to develop 'home-grown ethical leaders' and to create a model governance structure, we have instituted a Student Council in Junior School. The elections were held in the classrooms and at each grade level there are two council representatives. The grade 6 representatives are the Presidents of the JS student Council. Congratulations to all the members! Ms Arpita and Ms Moushumi are the mentors and we hope to see the student council proactively involved in the day-to-day running of the school, thereby developing their organizational and leadership skills.

It's with heavy hearts that we bid farewell to Ms Shikha as she embarks on a new phase of her life in Gabon, but here's wishing her all the best in her new job. I'd like to welcome Ms Anjum as the Form Tutor of 4A. I also take this opportunity to welcome

Ms Shabana as my personal Assistant since October this year.

As we look forward to 2015, I request all parents to reflect on their child's overall development and focus on providing them with an effective blend of love, care, attention and an environment that will supplement and complement the school's activated vision.

Have a great holiday and wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful 2015!!

Latha Kumar, Principal

Junior Academy The Aga Khan Academy, Hyderabad



PYP workshops for parents

Another example of the Academy's ongoing endeavours to educate our parents about the various facets of the Primary Years Programme (PYP) and to involve them as stakeholders in their child's education, was organising the PYP workshops on November 29. Considering the diverse needs, this time around, parents were allowed to choose from a range of four workshop titles: Assessment in the PYP; Role of Maths in the PYP; Inquiry in the PYP and Reading and Writing through inquiry. Each workshop lasted for two hours and was led by various members of the junior school staff. The workshops were conducted in a style similar to that of official, worldwide PYP workshops by making them inquiry-based, experiential and conceptual. They not only provided the parents with an opportunity to experience an engaging PYP classroom but also helped them to find answers to their 'inquiry questions'. Having a thorough understanding of the curriculum, the workshop leaders explained how the PYP holistically develops the whole child through 21st century education.

We thank all the parents who were able to attend the workshops and make the most of the orientation programme. "We really look forward to another such session!" was a consensus among all the participants.

Archana Prashar, PYP Coordinator



On November 12 and 27, 2014, Grade 6 students had two SKYPE sessions with their counterparts - one from Czech Republic and the other from Townsville in Australia. The sessions were very interesting as the students had to guess and find out about their places in the world – **Mystery Skype**. The questions were asked in turns and were close-ended as the answers were either yes or no.

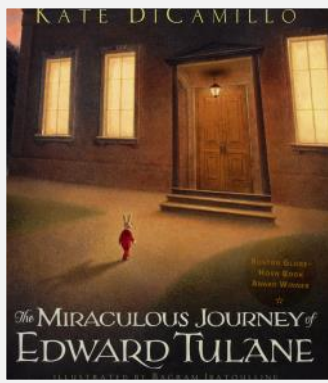
Students used maps and time zones, latitude and longitude to find the places. It was an engaging session as all the students were curious and enthusiastic to find out about the country and the school.

Later, students exchanged the significance of rituals and traditions in their cultures. They shared important facts and routines about food, festivals and people. The students inquired about the significance of puberty in their cultures and if they celebrate the 'coming of age'. The Aga Khan Academy Strand, 'Cultures' was explored in great detail to learn about the perspectives and beliefs behind the rituals and celebrations and their significance. Students built on the attribute of open-mindedness, appreciation and respect, thus enriching their experience. Looking ahead to many more such interactions.

Safura Mubeen
Form Tutor— Grade 6

Cultural Connections!





Edward will live on

The Global Read Aloud project finally came to an end, and it was with a great deal of reluctance that we finally turned the last page of the book. The moment was a

poignant one as it was hard to let go of the character of Edward, the rabbit. His transformation from a selfish, self-absorbed china rabbit to an almost human-like character who had finally understood the meaning of love and compassion, hypnotized us all.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed sharing their thoughts and feelings with other students from across the world. As we Skyped and exchanged

postcards and videos with each other, we realized how similar we were in spite of the differences in our creed and culture. It was heartening to read the students' reflections as they spoke of the complexities of love, compassion and loneliness. As we move on to other novels, I am sure that the helpless gaze of Edward's painted eyes will stay in our memories for a long time to come.

Naini Singh, Form Tutor Grade 5



Journey of learning!

The Grade 1s went on a field trip to the Nehru Zoological Park on 6th November 2014 to deepen and expand their learning outside the classroom environment. It was an ideal experience. As teachers we cherished many moments when students were able to reflect

and connect their past experience to the present. The first-hand learning experience made us understand that field trips are the best learning engagements to reveal, start or end the unit. To share the responsibility of children's learning, many parents also accompanied us for the field trip to show support and encouragement. We reached the zoo at 9:30 a.m. and started our journey on battery cars. It gave us a chance to speak about cars which run on batteries. We discussed the difference between the mode of transport we used for our journey to the zoo (bus) and battery cars. The first animal we saw at the zoo was an elephant named Asha. As the journey continued we came across different types of animals which come from different parts of the world and allowed us to discuss the concept of habitats and adaptation. Before going to the zoo, we had not spoken about nocturnal animals, so when we entered the nocturnal animals' tunnel it both surprised and startled the students and made them curious. Students also looked at various species of birds which can live from 25 to 40 years.

Overall it was a most engaging, inquiring and reflective trip for Grade 1. It allowed them a better understanding of their most-awaited and exciting unit. It also gave them ample opportunities to further reflect on their trans-disciplinary skills and concepts.

Laila Narsingan, Grade 1



SHADOW PUPPET SHOW

Students of Grade 3 inquired into an art form of Andhra Pradesh called 'Thollu bommalata'. They found out that 'Thollu bommalata' is a Telugu word which literally means the dance of puppets. 'Thollu' means skin and 'bommalata' means puppet dance. These life size puppets are translucent as they are made of thin leather. This art form is a unique combination of the craft of making the puppets and the performing art of puppetry. As the students investigated into the art form further they decided not only to create their own puppets but to perform a puppet show. Students divided themselves in groups, selected stories and some of them even wrote their own stories for the puppet show. The process started with writing scripts, identifying characters and making the puppets. Students rehearsed the dialogues with their puppet movements and learnt their lines with expression and voice modulation to present an entertaining shadow puppet show in front of the junior school students and teachers

Isha Joshi, Visual Art



SHAKE OUT!

The Aga Khan Academy Hyderabad held a Shakeout drill this term to demonstrate readiness in the case of an earthquake striking Telangana or anywhere else that they and their families may be visiting.

All the students had been coached in readiness for the event after attending an assembly to instruct them on the reason for the academy-wide drill.

A few classroom practises later - at odd times - and then - one day unannounced - the siren blared and all the students remembered their drill to DROP, COVER and HOLD ON! Once the all clear was announced, the students filed out of class in an orderly manner to assemble in the courtyard for a roll call.

The drill was a success in that all the students remembered what to do and why they should stay calm and remember the DROP, COVER, HOLD ON drill.

Alison Zinsli Reading specialist



TEACHER EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Moving to the Aga Khan Academy Mombasa, as part of the Academies' faculty exchange programme, for two months (19 September – 15 November 2014) was one of the best and most rewarding experiences of my life. Not only was I able to experience a completely new way of living, learning and in particular, teaching, I was able to travel to parts of the world I had never thought possible, accompanied by some of the most wonderful people I have ever met. The program enabled me to make some amazing bonds with people from Mombasa and the AKAM team in particular, especially the students and my colleagues. The exchange program is a great initiative taken up by the Aga Khan Academies and I am extremely proud to be a pioneer member of the programme. It is a well-developed and enriching way to grow oneself at a personal level.

The teachers, students and parents were incredibly helpful and encouraging and it resulted in a great sharing of teaching and learning experiences. We managed to learn a lot from each other and to grow in various aspects of life: social, moral, cultural and spiritual. There was an atmosphere of friendship, unity and cheerfulness and we got on well with one another besides acquiring various teaching skills. The project helped me to learn a lot from my peers.

I am so thankful to have been given the opportunity to be involved with this amazing and life-changing programme.

Sheherbanoo Form Tutor Grade 5



Transdisciplinary workshop

In the month of September I attended an 'over time' IB regional workshop. It was spread over three Saturdays and hosted by Oakridge International School, Sreenidhi International School and the Aga Khan Academy, Hyderabad.

Our workshop was facilitated by Ms Archana Prashar, who is the PYP coordinator at the AKA,H.

Before the workshop, I had some knowledge about transdisciplinary curriculum, but after the workshop, there was certainly much more clarity on transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary curriculum.

On the first day we got very excited while creating props with the help of newspapers in order to display as many learner profile attributes as possible. Each group put in their best efforts and at the end we had to walk the ramp with our props. We admired each other's props and thrived in the creative energy. We realized that we had to build on our ideas and imagination to create something new and certainly this could be an engaging classroom engagement.

On the second day we were given an opportunity to choose a transdisciplinary skill and create an advertisement. We had to make sure that the advertisements were trans disciplinary in nature. Some groups made a chart, some made a poster, some role played and our group used technology (Prezi) to create and present our advertisement. There was a lot of enthusiasm to integrate all the disciplines and transcended the disciplinary barriers in order to create the perfect transdisciplinary advertisement.

In the second half of the day, we were taken to Birla Science Museum for a field trip.

Our task was to choose artefacts from the museum which we had to make transdisciplinary. It was a challenging and interesting task.

On day three we compared our school's scope and sequence curriculum documents with the Australian, American and UK curriculum. We realized that the IB scope and sequence that we follow is much more transdisciplinary in nature than the other curriculum. We had begun the workshop by arranging a few statements in the order of true, more true than false, more false than true and false. At the end of the session we rearranged the them based on the knowledge that we had gathered.

Overall, it was an enjoyable learning experience for me. I acquired knowledge and have more confidence in applying the concept in a classroom environment.

Reema Mitra, Form Tutor Grade 4



Celebration of Childhood

Children's Day, a day of fun and frolic, was observed in a grand way to make the students of the junior school feel special. The day began with a special assembly conducted by the

teachers commemorating Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and his affection for the children. It ended with an enthralling fashion parade by the junior school teachers which amused the students and their loud cheers showed their enthusiasm and delight. Dressed in vibrant costumes, teachers dressed in themes such as 'East meets West, Recycled, Ethnic and Bollywood'. By popular demand of the junior school students, a special swimming session was scheduled for all students. Though the weather was chilly, the children enjoyed every moment of their favourite sport.

For lunch, a lavish spread of burgers, pasta, ice cream and other sumptuous items were laid out. The students were overjoyed to find their most liked menu being served.

The day ended with another surprise. It was a puppet

show based on the popular

American Classic 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz'. The entertaining puppetry was appreciated by everyone. The students were also treated with crisps and chocolates before they left for home. Thus the day was celebrated amidst pomp and merriment.



Suparna Mitra, Form Tutor Grade 2



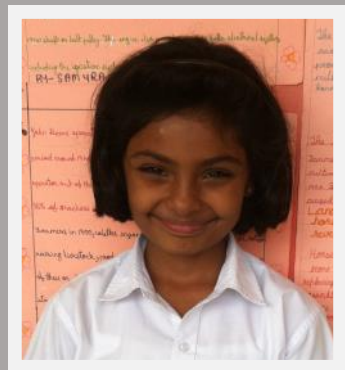
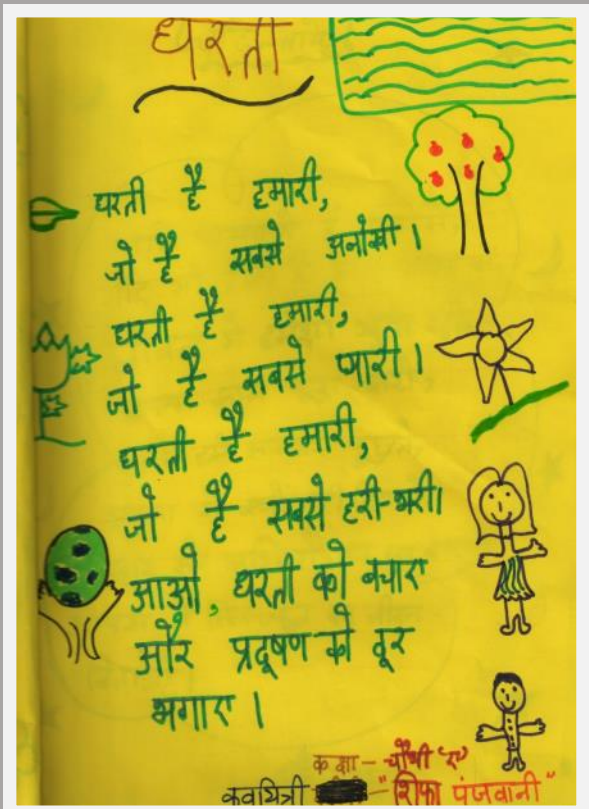
The Aga Khan Academy Junior school participated in an IB PYP inter-school athletics meet. This was organized by Indus International School and AKAH won 20 medals across several events. AKA,H also hosted an under – 12 inter-school league cum knockout football tournament at the AKA,H campus from 20th to 22nd November 2014. There were a total of 7 teams with around 120 students from other international schools participating for this championship. AKA,H junior school topped in the league stage by winning all the three league matches but lost in the semi-finals to Phoenix Green International School. The winner was the Glendale Academy International School and runner up was Phoenix Green International School.

Athletics and football in spotlight

Ravi Kumar
Physical Education



Sheetal Uniyal



Shifa Panjwani

Junior school helps students

Thanks to the AKA,H junior school, at least

100 of an expected 500 underprivileged Muslim minority students from the old city - who dropped out of school for financial reasons – will now be able to take their 10th examination in June 2015.

The junior school's students as well as teachers from both schools, and administration staff generously donated more than 1 lakh rupees earlier this term towards a unique project that the AKA,H is involved with. The project, "Enabling Secondary Education and Employability for Out-of-School Adolescents in Minority Slums of Hyderabad, Telangana, India" is being implemented by Mahita in partnership with the Aga Khan Foundation (India) and the AKA,H under "Partnership to Strengthen Innovation and Practice in Secondary Education (PSIPSE)".

The pilot programme will provide out-of-school adolescents with scholastic support as well as non-cognitive and vocational skills to prepare them to meet the challenges of adulthood from a position of strength. Additionally, youth in grades 11–12, who have already completed secondary certification, will receive vocational education to enhance their employability. Funding has also come from the MacArthur Foundation and Human Dignity Foundation.

AKA,H outreach Program Manager Mr. Rajan Thampi said nearly 500 Muslim minority students will be trained in eight centres in the old city of Hyderabad. He said this is a "second chance" at education for these students, who now dream about getting good jobs, such as becoming air hostesses, teachers, businesspeople, doctors etc.

"I can assure you that the contribution each one of you made will never go in vain," he said in a letter to the school community, and added in an interview that the money "definitely throws hope in students' lives."

The exams are one of the hurdles in the project which was successfully conquered. Mr. Thampi said the support provided by the Academy is all about "ultimately supporting fellow human beings."

Mahita program director Ramesh Sekhar Reddy. P also personally wrote the school to say Mahita is "continually inspired by the dedication and generosity of colleagues from (the) Aga Khan Academy and specifically the children studying (at) the academy (who) contributed a lot for this noble cause."

Mr. Thampi also thanked Head of Academy Dr. Geoffrey Fisher and his administration team, Outreach's Rupen Chande and Anthony Spicer for their support.

Lisa Gervais and Rajan Thampi



The Aga Khan Academy has been a stepping stone

Au Revoir

for me into the world of IB. As I leave this place to explore a new world, I look back and reflect on my journey here. I still recall the moment I stepped out of the airport in Hyderabad on 31st January 2012 and was greeted by a wonderful breeze. Thereafter, all my doubts about moving to Hyderabad were put to rest when I met Ms. Diana and her friendly staff of teachers. Each of them was warm and welcoming. As a form tutor here, I learnt a lot about the primary years programme. With a team of highly professional and trained leaders and teachers, there was so much to learn that each day seemed to be a new beginning. The collaboration and dedication of the team reflected in the work of the students who grew by leaps and bounds and challenged themselves to newer levels. It is comforting to know that I leave behind my students who have unconditionally loved me and from whom I have learnt immensely. I wish the Academy a successful future and a prosperous journey .ahead!



Shikha Madan, Form Tutor Grade 4

Mall and Market

In our current unit of inquiry 'Economics' the students of grade 3 went on various field trips, to acquaint themselves with relevant economic concepts and terminology, which helped

them to better understand economics.

Their visit to Inorbit mall and Shilparamam gave them a better understanding of how sales are made. It gave them an insight into how to transact with money, apart from differentiating between needs and wants and to prioritize their choice depending on the availability of capital.

During their visit to Dolphin foods, our students had amazing exposure to the production and distribution of the final product. The explanations and presentation given by Mr. Arun made our students have an enhanced understanding between the primary and secondary sectors.

All the learning our students gathered has helped them to identify the main enterprise education skills that have been used over the course of the week to set up their business.

Vidya Pallath, Form Tutor Grade 3



Junior School makes music

The Musical afternoon held in early November included all the children from the Junior School in some form of music making. From Fun Songs that included 'Daddy's in the Garden' and 'Mr Sunflower' to the amusing adventures of 'The Gingerbread man' and some of the songs from 'The Tempest' the children sang enthusiastically and tunefully!

A splendid performance of Hindi songs by the Junior school Choir added to the choral music being presented. For the first time children from Grade 3 and Grade 4 performed tunes on the recorder and Grade 6 students played the Keyboard and Tabla. Several solo items included piano, violin and keyboard.

A large appreciative audience clearly enjoyed their children's music making and we are looking forward to our next presentation of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' in 2015.

Nigel Jackson
Music teacher



Junior School Sports Day

To coincide with His Highness the Aga Khan's birthday, the JS sports day was held on Friday 12th December 2014. It was a great morning, and the weather was perfect thanks to the unexpected rain the night before. Though slightly damp, the field looked great. The event start-

ed off with the national anthem by the school choir and an opening ceremony which consisted of a yoga presentation by Grades 1,2, and 3 and a synchronized mass drill to drum beat by Grades 4,5 and 6. The parent gallery was almost full and the students could barely contain their enthusiasm. The atmosphere was one of fun and excitement. While the track events were going on, field events were held simultaneously on the other side. Every student got an opportunity to participate and went away with at least one medal, to their great joy. Although the races and relays were in 4 houses- Kakatiya (olive green), Pandya (yellow), Maurya (Red), Nizam (Navy blue)- there was a spirit of camaraderie and sportsmanship among the JS students. We congratulate the PE team for their hard work and effort in organizing a wonderful sports day!!



Sreelatha Kumar



Day Care Diary

