



Al Ihsaan



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A U C K L A N D P A R K A C A D E M Y O F E X C E L L E N C E

Special points of interest:

Message from the Principal

News from the Board of Management

Message from PTA

Assalaamualaikum, Welcome to our Spring edition of Al Ihsaan. Enjoy the newsletter, and feel free to get in touch and let us know what you think.
Editor Mrs F Amod

Message from the Principal, Mr. I.C. Vawda

As Salaamu Alaikum Warahmatullahe Wabarakatuh.
The Third Term of the academic year 2012 has come to an end. We praise Allah (SWA) for His mercy, guidance and protection.



All newly established institutions will face teething problems and the Auckland Park Academy of Excellence (APAX) is no different. It will be very unfair and unrealistic to compare it with institutions that are decades old and steeped in tradition. What is critical to the evolution of APAX is how the founding fathers and all the role players, including parents and educators respond to these challenges. The successful development of APAX does not depend on few individuals. To achieve our ultimate goal we should focus on why we are associated with APAX and then direct our energies to achieve this goal. Listening attentively, responding thoughtfully, acknowledging people's contributions and being fair, will contribute to the positive ethos we hope to achieve.

APAX

To enable the stake holders at APAX to realize our dreams, it is imperative that we work as a unit and single mindedly towards achieving our objectives. Why we are associated with APAX and then direct our energies to achieve this goal. Our children occupy the apex of the educational pyramid and as such must remain the focus of all our efforts. Consequently a strong partnership between the home and the school must prevail. Parents must establish an enlightened environment in the home. Studying and the completion of homework and other tasks must be encouraged and supervised by the parents. Parents must remain in constant communication with the school and the educators of their children. Regarding this, the school will set up a consultation schedule to enable parents to meet with educators. Educators will make themselves available during predetermined non teaching periods. Appointments will have to be made via the school secretaries.

As head of the School, I have an open door policy. I am available to talk to parents at any time of the day, provided my schedule allows it. Please confirm with the secretary before coming to the school. I look forward to meeting all the parents of the School on a one-on-one basis. (Continued on page 2)

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Message from the Principal, Mr. I.C. Vawda- Continued

Some of my observations which I would like to share with parents include:

Punctuality

Punctuality is an integral part of any child's development. Discipline is the key to successful education. We therefore insist that parents bring their children to school on time. For a small school such as ours, late coming is of concern and the cooperation of all parents will be appreciated.

Fees

As a reminder to all parents, fees are due on or before the 7th of each month and in advance. Alhamdulillah, most parents do pay their fees regularly. Regrettably some parents do ignore their financial commitment to the school. Like all enterprises, an independent school has its obligations which have to be honoured. We therefore urge all parents to respond positively.

Meeting Parents:

I have had the pleasure of formerly meeting a number parents in the office. These meetings were conducted in a very mature and adult manner and the dignity of the office was always respected. This attitude augers well for the school and I express my sincere gratitude to these parents.

News from the Board of Management

As Salaamu Alaikum to all.

We say Shukran Jazeelan to all our parents, friends and well-wishers who have supported us in establishing and developing the APAX concept. The Auckland Park Academy of Excellence (APAX) is only 20 months old, but we remain confident that we are in the right direction and that with the help and guidance of Allah Rab-ul-Izzat we will succeed. Insha Allah.

FEES.

To inform parents that increasing fees is never a pleasant task. Unfortunately we have no choice in the matter, if we are to meet our financial obligations. We have tried to keep the increases to the barest minimum. You will also realize that the Esperanza and workbook costs have been included in the fee structure.

It is our sincere du'as that Allah (SWA) increases the Barakah in your rizq so that we are able provide our children with good all round education. Insha Allah

BUILDING PROJECT

We are pleased to inform parents that by the grace of Allah (SWA), we have started with our project. We are awaiting the final approval of our plans from the City Council before we start with laying the foundation. We urge all our parents to remember APAX in their prayers at all times, so that our Creator will turn our dreams into reality. Especially those who will be performing Hajj this year. Insha Allah.

GRADES 5 AND 6: 2013

We intend offering 1 additional class for grade 5 and 6 next year, depending on numbers. Applications are now open. For more information contact the School Administrator on 011 482 7852.

The tree of Wisdom is watered by tears-Swiss Proverb

Message from PTA

Alhamdulillah we are almost at the end of the 3rd school term and the APAX PTA would like to thank all APAX parents and teachers for their support thus far.

Welcome:

Brothers Zaheer Talia, Bilal Sader and Tahir Momoniat. May Allah guide our collective efforts and skills to the benefit of the school and the learners. We would like to officially welcome the new captain of the APAX ship, Mr. IC Vawda. We look forward to positive developments under his leadership through his immense knowledge and experience. His impact has already brought about encouraging results. May Allah grant APAX and Mr Vawda and long and beneficial relationship. The PTA wishes to sincerely thank Moulana Adnan Patel and Brother Ahmed Kotwal for their valuable services and input during their term. May Allah reward their efforts.

Ramadhan Programmes:

Our Ramadhan relief programs were once again an immense success. These programmes created awareness amongst learners and parents to the plight of Muslim's living within a stone's throw from us, in the areas of Riverlea, Newclare and Westbury, as well as in Soweto and Kliptown/Kilpspruit. Those who participated were deeply touched by the joy of the communities we visited, and I am sure our learners have acquired a sense of appreciation for all that we have to be thankful for. Jazakallaah Khair to every single parent, educator and learner who assisted in ensuring the Ramadhan Initiative was successful.

Sports Update:

KHIA! That's what you hear on Tuesdays at Campus One with our budding martial arts experts in the making. Alhamdulillah the MMA has kicked off and is running regularly with a well qualified teacher and extremely enthusiastic learners. Fantastic start. Please note that we require equipment to enhance the lessons. Parents who wish to assist in any way are requested to please email the PTA on pta@apax.co.za. Watch this space for news on the summer sporting codes that we are working on.



Tuck Shop:

Our school tuck shop will also be undergoing a cosmetic and menu make-over soon. We have managed to acquire all the materials for the cosmetic changes and implementation will begin in days to follow. The new and improved 'healthier' menu will also be implemented gradually, starting with Tutti Fruiti Tuesdays - so watch this space. The PTA is currently working on an exciting fund raising event which will take place soon. More information regarding this event will be distributed shortly. For more information or queries please contact the PTA at pta@apax.co.za.



From the desk of our Islamic Studies Department

Alhamdulillah, we have established a well functioning Islamic Studies department here at Apax and strive to do better each day, Insha-Allah. We have a staff of four dedicated and experienced individuals who take an active part in establishing Islam, not only as a subject but totally as a way of life. Through that, our learners strive to live and uphold values taught to them. We endeavour to entrench a complete Islamic value system to enable our learners to see themselves as Muslims first in every sphere of their lives. May Allah(SWT) help us in achieving our goals here at APAX Insha-Allah. Ameen



From the desk of Mrs Aysha Haffejee
(Head of Department- Foundation Phase)

2012 has thus far proved to be an eventful year at APAX. Alhamdulillah, our institution aims to facilitate the optimum growth and development of all our learners. May Allah (S.W.T.) be pleased with us.

For our Foundation Phase learners, we have tried to use the homework schedule, not only for the homework that is given to our learners but also as a means of communication. On it we place our themes, events, weekly test details and much more. We believe that good communication is fundamental for a healthy and conducive relationship between us. The codes you see on the report are not only based on tasks given from very early in the term, but are also based on continual assessment and observation of the day to day performance and behaviour of our learners. Little ones learn best in an environment which is stress free and enjoyable. Our weekly Friday tests are conducted to assist our learners in the development of basic fundamental concepts like spelling, reading and basic mathematical skills.

The Foundation Phase learner is meant to be absorbing all there is to learn during school time. The only exception would be when parents have been called in by the teacher and are asked to also give a little extra support. This could be done either by themselves or where necessary by other professionals which they may have been referred to. These tasks enable our educators to not only assess whether the learners have understood the various concepts taught but also indicate if certain sections need to be covered again. Based on trends and common practice in most institutions, we have chosen to handle assessment tasks or “tests” as most of you call it, in a way that will inflict the least amount of pressure or “stress” on our learners. When dates for these assessments are given, we find that the essence of an enjoyable and relaxed learning environment is lost to unnecessary anxiety experienced by our children, as well as, you the parent. These dates will therefore not be given out. May Allah (S.W.T.) always guide us into doing what’s best for all.



From the desk of Mrs Amina Dollie
(Head of Department, Intermediate Phase)

PALM'S PURSUITS

Campus 2 has been a buzz with activities over the third term. Apart from the Science Olympiad, Speech Contest and 67 minutes for Madi-ba, our learners have competed in a boat race day and designed and built their very own masjid model complete with minaraahs, fountains and a wudhu facility. Learners investigated changes caused by heating and cooling by carrying out their own experiments on “Mad Scientist Day” and dressed the part too! We welcomed Spring with planting lovely gardens and learners recited Dhikr as they tilled the soil and sowed their seeds thus gaining reward for planting in both worlds. It has always been important to us that our learners benefit holistically from every task that is performed.



The greatest challenge for our parents in this day and age is the challenge of leadership. How we behave, what ethics we subscribe to, the level of responsibility we accept as leaders and our willingness to be accountable for our actions. If we lead the right way, we will encourage our “ordinary” children to produce extraordinary results. Intelligent leaders can turn values into actions, dreams into realities, obstacles into opportunities, separation into togetherness and risk into reward. The Apax community must develop such leaders who will turn this APAX opportunity into an outstanding success. Insha Allah.



Precious pets

Meow, purr, woof, squawk, cheep cheep, cluck cluck, gnaw, baaaah, chitter chatter.....Our Grade one learners enjoyed a jolly and jovial **'Bring-a-pet Day'** for show and tell! Wow we had a range of different pets! Furry! Scaly! Rough! Smooth!

Shells! Feathers! Wool.....What an awesome assortment!! Tortoises, lambs, hens, parrots, dogs, cats, bunnies ..You name it we had it! With such a wide variety of exotic and domestic animals, we all learned about each pets likes, habitats, food, and how learners played as well as looked after them. The animals displayed their beauties, revealed their special talents and most importantly the learners paraded their animals with confidence and eagerness... Mashallah.

All learners from the Foundation phase came to view the wonderful pets and every one of their faces twinkled with exhilaration and excitement. Jazakallah to all parents for sending pictures and allowing learners to bring their pets to school. They had a superbly unforgettable day!!! **Muallima Zaakirah Loonat Gr 1**



“ Is spring coming?” he said. “ What is it like?”

“It is the sun shining on the rain and the rain falling on the sunshine”

-Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden*

Apax has grown exponentially since its birth. The spirit and heart of the school can be compiled into one word: **LOVE**. Friday the 14th was one of the days in which this love was felt between teachers, students and the school itself. Our second Spring day painted the gardens of Apax in the beautiful colours of this season. Children were very happy to wear civvies and get on their gear to make this day a great success. Muallimahs and their classes took to the soil, planting seedlings, vegetables and flowers, to celebrate the coming of this beautiful time of year that Allah (s.w.t) has blessed us with. Insha-Allah, we make dua that our gardens grow and flourish each and every year. We must thank parents for their help and contributions, and especially to our learners for their enthusiasm and great effort!



Jazakallah!♥

Muallima Luthfiah Yunus Gr 3 Grade 3



Waseem Support Staff Campus 1

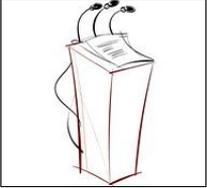
Alhamdulillah, we are heading towards the end of the year, it has been wonderful to be part of the APAX family. What warmth and comfort I have received from teachers, learners and parents. Insha Allah we are bound with a strong chain, may the Almighty be with us through thick and thin. Apart from the good reception and assistance that I have received in becoming a Muslim it now plays an important role in my life and has uplifted my lifestyle. Islam has taught me a lot already in which I experience in my daily life and I know what I need to do and what I am required to avoid. Remember me in your prayers and may Allah make me a strong Muslim Ameen (Unedited).



Waleed Support staff Campus 2

Alhamdulillah with grace of Allah our support staff **Webster** has also taken the Shahadah. He is now called Waleed We urge all parents and learners to address him and all our support staff in an appropriate manner and assist them where ever possible.

APAX SPEECH CONTEST WINNERS

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- Grade 1:** 1st Nusaybah Ebrahim
2nd Abdurrahman Gangat
3rd Laeeqa Joosub
- Grade 2:** 1st Zahraa Ebrahim
2nd Zayd Areff
3rd Aaisha Z Paruk
- Grade 3:** 1st Hamza Manjra
2nd Musabbihah Ebrahim
3rd Hamzah Ravat
- Grade 4:** 1st Muhammed Razeen Sader
2nd Muaaz Amod
3rd Laaika Amod & Eesa Haffejee
- Grade 5:** 1st Aneesa Randeree
2nd Ahlaam Motara
3rd Yumna Choonara
- Grade 6:** 1st Shaaista Khan
2nd Hammaad Akoojee
3rd Uthmaan Salajee
- Grade 7:** 1st Ahmed Salajee & Abdullah Dollie
2nd (no second)
3rd Mohammed Taahir Malick

Congratulations to Muallima Fatima Badat on the arrival of her baby boy. "Children are a source of delight and an adornment for the world granted by Allah to their parents, they give vigour to the hearts, joy to the souls, pleasure to the eyes. They are the fruit from whom good is to be hoped for when they frequently supplicate"-
Source: The-Newborn-Child-Born-into-Islam-
Qur-an-and-Sunnah-on-parenting

FROM THE ADMINISTRATORS DESK REMINDER-2014 GRADE 1 SIBLING APPLICATIONS

All applications to be submitted to the office by the end of September 2012
Late sibling applications will not be given preference .

"In the life of every man and woman a window opens when we have the chance to make an impact. Once the window closes our life is effectively over even if we remain alive" Yawar Baig

LOST AND FOUND !!!! CAMPUS 1 AND 2

We have blazers, tracksuit jackets, jerseys, beanies, winter scarves water bottles, lunch boxes. Parents please mark all your child's items with his /her name and grade for easy identification.

