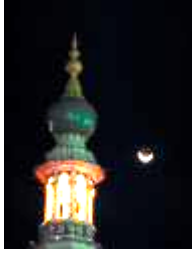




Call to the Light



MUAAZZIN

20TH SHA'BAN شعبان 1427

Newsletter No.15

14TH SEPT 2006

Important dates

22nd Sept – Parent/teacher interviews19th Sept – Animal Farm incursion23rd Sept – End of term 3.9th Oct – Start of term 4

Parent/ teacher Interviews

There will be no school on Friday of next week (22nd). Rather, the day has been reserved for parent/ teacher interviews. A letter was sent home yesterday (Wednesday) informing families of this arrangement. Please make sure that you have completed the form for each child, and have it returned to the class teacher no later than this Friday (15th).

Bus tags

The bus and walking tags will inshAllah be issued to the relevant students this Friday. It is hoped that this strategy will improve the safety of children after school.

Please also ensure that if you are driving within the school property or even in the vicinity of the school, to be very careful around young children. They can sometimes be very unpredictable and attempt to cross the roads or driveways without properly checking for traffic.

It is also requested for motorists to give way to children especially near the entrance and exit gates, as well the roads.

Water Incursion

Last Tuesday, grades 3 and 4 were visited by Yarra Valley Water who supply water to the homes in Melbourne. The students learnt of ways to reduce water usage. Of particular importance in this time is the need to conserve water due to low dam levels which are still not relieved by the recent downpours.

In actual fact, we should not be conserving water for the reason that it is now an offence in society, but more so because Islam instructs us not to waste. It has been said, that those who waste are the brothers of Shaytan.

This wastage is not restricted to water only, but also includes things like electricity (which we waste when we forget to turn the extra lights off in the home), gas,

food (think of all those starving people in the world before throwing away that extra sandwich), or even time (especially when each second in this world is either earning us millions of years of pleasure or pain in the next life).

One thing we can all improve on is our reduced usage of water when we make wudu. It is essential that when we are preparing to make 'ibadah for the sake of making Allah happy with us, we don't fall into the mistake of displeasing Him through our careless behaviour in its preparation. Often we may be led to think that it is necessary to use large amounts of water for ensuring that it reaches all the parts of the body required to be made wet during wudu. However, most people will be shocked to learn that in fact, a full sunnah wudu may be performed by as little as 2 cups of water (about ½ a litre)!

Let's all make a resolution before the start of Ramadan, to waste less all of the bounties of Allah that we take for granted and for which we will have to be answer for on the Day of Judgement.

School Supervision Times

The school offers supervision for 15mins before and after school. There is no supervision provided outside these times. Please make sure that if your child is not involved in any school organised activities like the Nasheed group, they are picked up on time. This includes the siblings of students attending the Nasheed group, they will not be permitted to stay in the school grounds after 4:05pm. Your cooperation in this matter would be appreciated.

Achievements in Hifz- Ms Maryam Sateh

MashAllah we have another girl from Hifz A who has recently completed her memorisation of the Holy Quran. Afsara Tasnim managed to complete her hifz in just 2 years and five months. Her last Juz took her only 2 days! Her excellent behaviour and obedience has elevated her to this great achievement. Mabrook from all of us at school for adding to the ummah another valuable member who will inshAllah, carry the flame of light in her heart.

With such excellent results, it only motivated others also to follow this lead and join the competitive field of their peers. Student Rukiyye Sayan was also

rewarded for her efforts by completing a whole juz in two days. That's two days well spent! May Allah also give all of us the same enthusiasm for His deen as these girls have shown. Ameen.

It just goes to show that it may take a lot of hard work and determination, but Allah never wastes the efforts of anyone. Don't forget to read the story of the week, which talks about making a struggle to get the beautiful results in the end.

Hadith of the week

Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) said that Allah says, "Oh Ridhwaan (keeper of Jannah) open the doors of Jannah, and Oh Maalik (keeper of Jahannum) close the doors of Jahannum for those who fast from among the ummah of Ahmad. Oh Jibraeel, go down to the earth and tie the evil shaytans in chains, and cast them in the oceans so that they do not make mischief and spoil the fast of the ummah of My beloved Muhammad (sallallahu alaihi wasallam)"(extract from a longer hadith)

Countdown!

There are now no more than 10 days left for the start of Ramadan. Such a blessed month is coming up that if we truly realised its value, we would wish the whole year to be Ramadan. The following is a list (by no means complete) of some virtues of Ramadan; it is good to know these in order to prepare for it as best as we can:

- It keeps evil away from the heart.
- Evil-minded shayateen are locked up.
- In it comes a night more greater in virtue than 1000 months (Laylatul Qadr – Night of Power)!
- Any good deed is rewarded like a fard (compulsory) deed.
- Every fard deed is rewarded 70 times more.
- A true believer's rizq (sustenance) is increased.
- There is an enormous amount of forgiveness and mercy from Allah on those who fast.
- The first part of the month brings Allah's mercy, the middle of which brings His forgiveness, and the last of which brings freedom from the fire of Hell.
- The smell from the mouth of a fasting person is sweeter to Allah than the fragrant smell of musk.
- The fish in the sea ask for forgiveness for the people until they break their fast.
- Allah prepares and decorates a special garden in Jannah for the fasting person everyday.
- Duas are readily accepted.

Story of the Week

A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could, and it could go no further. So the man decided to help the butterfly. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon.

The butterfly then emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings.

The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would shrink back to a normal size.

Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man, in his kindness and haste, did not understand was that all things take their proper time according to the plan of Allah.

Allah has created the cocoon in a way that requires the butterfly to make effort to come out. When the butterfly makes this effort and struggles, it actually forces the extra liquid from the body to go into the wings. This makes the wings expand in a beautiful scene. The butterfly then becomes ready for its first flight of freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our lives. If Allah allowed us to go through our lives without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. We could never "fly"! Consider the following words for thought:

I asked for Strength.....
And Allah gave me Difficulties to make me strong.

I asked for Wisdom.....
And Allah gave me Problems to solve.

I asked for Prosperity.....
And Allah gave me Brain and Brawn to work.

I asked for Courage.....
And Allah gave me Danger to overcome.

I asked for Love.....
And Allah gave me troubled people to help.

I asked for Favours.....
And Allah gave me Opportunities.

I received nothing I wanted.....
I received everything I needed!

High School Tarbiyah Classes -Sr Khadeejah

Jenkins

With the aim of students expressing their thoughts, testing their knowledge, and creating enjoyment through deen, we recently had an Islamic Quiz between Year 8 and 9 girls on the topics of Taharah, Tayammum, Islamic Terminology and Salaah. It was very exciting and the Year 8's (a very bright bunch) were victorious!

We have also had an informative and exciting debate between the Year 9 and 10 girls, with the topic of discussion being:

'It is better to live in a Muslim Country'.

Year 9 speaking in the negative, while Year 10, in the affirmative.

Both teams brought forward many worthwhile points such as: Importance of living in an Islamic environment, Hearing Athaan, Having Muslim Neighbours, Succumbing to Nafs, Government issues, Dress, Education, Poverty and Calamities.

All in all there was a lot to say.

Year 10 claimed victory, while Year 9..... will try again next year, inshallah.

Food for thought

In our everyday lives we get so caught up in our own things that we fail to find time to reflect. At times, it seems that the whole world is against us and that nothing seems to be going right. Sometimes it is as if there is no one that truly wants to listen to us.

It is at this point that we either try all sorts of things on our own to force people to see our own point of view or perhaps we may totally give up and become sad.

However, there will always be some smart people who will realise that what is happening is actually a call from our Beloved Rabb. Often Allah sends different conditions upon us to test us and to return our thoughts back to Him. In the story of the week given earlier, it can be understood that whatever Allah has planned for us is for our own good.

Does any sensible person blame a stick if it is used for hitting, or does the attention go to the person using that stick to hit? We must learn to see all of the creation as a tool that Allah is using. Why don't we stop blaming others and start to reflect on our own lives? We need to see why Allah is using particular people or situations to affect our lives, whether in a good or bad way. It is always Allah who is so kind that He keeps wanting to bring our attention back to Him. Here is a poem called "The Holder" to this effect:

The winds of change are stirring
I can feel them swell inside
The winds of change are stirring
There's nowhere I can hide.

I point my finger outwards
But four point back at me
I point my finger outwards
As though I am blame free.

My Lord He watches closely
He wants to make me see
My Lord He watches closely
There's reason for things to be.

I stumble in the darkness
For I know it is a test
I stumble in the darkness
And try my very best.

The One who holds all power
Has let all things to be
The One who holds all power
Wants me to see it's me.

And why do such things happen?
It's hikmah (wisdom) from my Lord
And why do such things happen?
To take lessons on board.

Look towards the Holder
And not the hitting tool
Look towards the Holder
Do not become a fool.

Student Samples

English vs. Arabic

Have you ever wondered why foreigners have trouble with the English Language? Let's face it, English is a strange language. There is no egg in the eggplant, and neither pine nor apple in the pineapple. English muffins were not invented in England. French fries were not invented in France. We sometimes take English for granted, but if we examine its paradoxes we find that quicksand takes you down slowly, boxing rings are square, and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. If writers write, how come fingers don't fing? If the plural of tooth is teeth, shouldn't the plural of booth be beeth? If the teacher taught, why didn't the preacher praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? Why do people recite at a play, yet play at a recital; Park on driveways and Drive on parkways? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language where a house can burn up as it burns down; and in which you fill in a form by filling it out. And a bell is only heard once it goes! English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race (which of course isn't a race at all). That is why when the stars are out they

