



Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As-Salaam Alaikum.

As we near the end of 2024, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for making this year so special. From the excitement of the first day of school to the kindness and compassion shown towards one another, it has been an absolute joy to be part of this vibrant community.

Our students have grown and learned so much, both academically and socially. Their enthusiasm, curiosity, and creativity have filled the hallways and classrooms with energy and joy. I am so proud of each student!

Our faculty and staff have worked tirelessly to provide a nurturing and engaging environment for our students to thrive. Their dedication, expertise, and love of teaching have made a significant impact on this great journey. Within this newsletter, you will get just a brief glimpse into all the tremendous activities that help to shape and further enhance our school culture.

As we head into our winter break, I emphasize the importance of holding onto the incredible momentum we have generated. Our AIR values - attitude, intention, and respect - have been built upon the Islamic foundation of our success. I kindly request that parents and caregivers find ways to actively reinforce these values at home, ensuring that we maintain the positive and supportive environment we have worked so hard to build.

Let us also take this time to reflect on the things that truly matter: family, friends, and the love we share through God. This pause from the day-to-day school hustle and bustle allows us the opportunity to truly slow down and genuinely practice gratitude and appreciation for the blessings that we have, no matter how big or small they may seem.

As we look forward to the new year, I wish you all a peaceful, joyful, and rejuvenating winter break.

Warmest Regards,

Paul R. Cohee

Principal



Message from Islamic Studies Director

Salaam Alaykum Parents,

As we conclude the first quarter of the academic year at Az-Zahraa Islamic Academy, we reflect on our achievements and look forward to the promising months ahead in 2025. Our students' dedication has laid a strong foundation for future success.

The past four months have been filled with enriching Islamic education, thanks to our devoted Quran teachers, Sr. Zaynab Bachoo and Sr. Masuma Daya, along with Sr. Shabnam Mithani and Sr. Zehra Tamaki, who have been instrumental in imparting Islamic teachings to our students. We were also inspired by Sr. Musabbiha Bachoo and Sr. Batoul Rojeab's success at the WISE Talks in Karbala, Iraq and look forward to competing in the National Finals of the WISE Talks in Toronto in May 2025.

Looking Ahead: January-June 2025

Our upcoming schedule of fostering spiritual growth and community engagement is as follows:

Rajab: Spiritual Ascension

We'll celebrate Mabath and Meraj with our Annual Performance Event, allowing students to creatively express their understanding of these significant moments in Islamic history.

Shabaan: Rejoicing in Faith

This month will feature commemorations of important dates, including the birth of our 12th Imam (may Allah hasten his return), strengthening our connection to our faith and its leaders.

Ramadan: Nourishing Body and Soul

Our annual food bank drive will support both Muslims and non-Muslims in need, teaching students about compassion and social responsibility. We'll also intensify our spiritual practices through increased prayers and fasting.

To our parents, your unwavering support has been crucial to our success. We look forward to continuing this collaborative journey with you. As we prepare to welcome back our students in January, we're excited about the spiritual growth and memorable experiences that await us in the new year.

May Allah bless our efforts in nurturing the next generation of confident, compassionate, and knowledgeable Muslims.

Shaykh Saleem Bhimji

Director of Islamic Studies

ISLAMIC RESOURCES

"Click on [Resource](#) to check it out"



TIPS OF THE MONTH

Sleeping Patterns:

Ensure your child gets enough rest. A consistent sleep schedule improves focus and active participation in class.

Timely Prayer:

Help your child engage in daily prayers on times. Guide them to value prayer as part of their routine and to perform appropriate Wudhu.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Commemorating the Martyrdom of Fatima az-Zahraa (a)

We solemnly observed the death anniversary of the 'Queen of Heaven,' Fatima az-Zahraa (peace be upon her), honouring her memory with heartfelt love and respect. With the support of our dedicated PVG team, students created beautiful headbands that were distributed to every member of the school to wear on this special occasion. May Allah bless the soul of Fatima az-Zahraa (a) abundantly and send countless blessings upon her and her family.



Hot Lunch with Pizza and Popcorn Fun!

Hot Lunch Days bring joy and variety with options like pizza, burgers, and chicken strips while supporting fundraising efforts for those in need. Huge thanks to our amazing PVG team for their tireless organization. Looking forward to more delicious lunches ahead! We have also introduced a popcorn fundraiser featuring favourite flavours like caramel, salty, and butter.



Field Trips

This November, students enjoyed field trips to places such as Science World, Vancouver Art Gallery Richmond Art Gallery and Richmond Library where they explored hands-on exhibits, learned fascinating concepts, and captured

wonderful memories with pictures. Field trips like these offer a perfect blend of fun and education, allowing children to engage with new ideas, collaborate with peers, and experience learning beyond the classroom in a truly enjoyable way.



AZIA Soccer at Iqra Islamic School

Some of Az-Zahraa Islamic Academy's students had the opportunity to travel to and compete at Iqra Islamic School for some friendly soccer matches. Coordinated by Coach Hossein and Ms. Jacquie, the girls & boys demonstrated focus, resilience, and quality sportsmanship. They battled Iqra's teams with enthusiasm and fought through the energy of a "rowdy" crowd with poise and fortitude. We are proud of their effort and grateful to Iqra Islamic School for hosting us. We look forward to more competitions in the future with many more students!



Online Safety

We welcomed back Constable Tammy Walker, AZIA's liaison officer, who joined us to discuss online safety with our Grade 5-7 students. She worked with the teachers to identify dangers and some essential tools to help

navigate the digital world responsibly. The session emphasized key safety measures, such as protecting personal information and recognizing online risks. Students actively participated and left with a clear understanding of how to stay safe online. Thank you, Tammy, for this valuable learning opportunity!





School Assemblies



Our first-ever cohort assemblies were held for KG – Grade 3 and then Grade 4 – Grade 7 students. We celebrated the great start to the school year, acknowledging the wonderful work completed and the progress that students have made. We also reminded students about our responsibility to take care of the earth, the importance of good nutrition, and behavioural expectations to help keep our community a thriving and learning place.

Shaikh Saleem delivered a meaningful talk on the importance of Surah al-Hujarat and its connection to identity, while Sr. Jacquie energized the room by drawing AIR tag prize winners and announcing the House Teams points so far this year!

Certificates of Distinction were presented to students by Sr. Virtue and Mr. Cohee, who demonstrated consistent Ambassadorship towards our Islamic and AIR (Attitude, Intention, Respect) values, most notably role modelling wonderful Akhlaq.



Spirit Week

We had an exciting Spirit Week filled with fun and activities!



Monday: Twins Day

Tuesday: Celebration of the birth of Fatima az-Zahraa (s.a.)

Wednesday: Hot Lunch

Thursday: House Team T-shirts / Jersey Day

Friday: No Backpack Day and early dismissal!



Hotdog Toonie Thursday!



On Thursday, December 12th, 2024, the Grade 4 class successfully hosted a "Hotdog Toonie Thursday" fundraiser. Students brought a toonie to enjoy delicious hotdogs, with the option to purchase more than one. The event was a great success, and we thank everyone for supporting the Grade 4 fundraiser! Following the success of our previous Toonie Thursday, we are happy to continue this initiative throughout next year. Stay tuned for new dates!

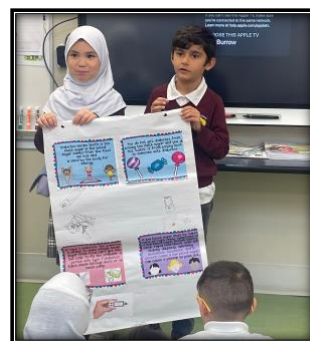
Classroom Activities & Updates

Grade 2/3

In November, Grade 2 & Grade 2/3 students learned about diabetes, highlighted by a special event on World Diabetes Day, November 14th. Zainab, Akbar and Mohammed Kasim, Fazal shared their personal experiences, followed by Q&A, demonstrations, and a video.

Guests included Nurse Trina, Shaykh Saleem, Sr. Zahida, and Sr. Najwa.

~ Sr. Sakina WM (Grade 2/3 Teacher)





November & December 2024 Newsletter

Rabil Al Athani & Jamaada Al Ula: 1446 AH

Grade 5

We are thrilled to share that Grade 5 students, along with peers from Grades 2 and 7, participated in the prestigious Beaver Computing Challenge (BCC) on November 12th, guided by STEM specialist Mohammed Jahromi. This online math contest encouraged problem-solving and computational thinking. Congratulations to our talented participants for their outstanding performance and enthusiasm!

~ **Br. Adem (Grade 5 Teacher)**



Astronomy Club



The AZIA Astronomy Club engaged grades 4–7 students in an exciting eight-week after-school program exploring the cosmos. Meeting weekly, they delved into diverse space topics, ending with certificates and prizes for their enthusiasm. The program fostered a love for astronomy through fun and learning.

~ **Sr. Natalie Blinn (Grade 7 Teacher)**

After School Clubs (Jan 13th - Feb 28th, 2025)

We're excited to open sign-ups for Term 2 After School Clubs for Grades K-7!

Clubs Offered:

- Tuesday: Science Club (Gr 4-7, Max 24)
- Wednesday: Basketball (Gr K-3, Max 30), Cooking Club (Gr 2-5, Max 20)
- Thursday: Girls Fitness (Gr 4-7)
- Friday: Boys Basketball (Gr 4-7)

A materials fee applies for science (\$10) and Cooking (\$15), payable in cash to homeroom teachers. Registration is now Closed.



Follow Us on Social Media!



We are excited to go digital! Follow us on Instagram for updates and beautiful pictures of our school community. Simply scan the barcode below to join us. Don't miss out on the wonderful moments that make our school special! We can't wait to share our experiences with you!

"Stay tuned, parents—more exciting updates are just around the corner!"

School Calendar 2024/2025 1446/1447

Any updates to the dates below will be communicated as available.

First Day of School			
Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024 – Noon Dismissal			
School & Religious Holidays		Pro-D Days	
Monday, Sept. 2	Labour Day	Tuesday, Sept. 3	Planning Day
Monday, Sept. 30	Truth & Reconciliation Day	Friday, Sept. 20	Pro-D Day
Monday, Oct. 14	Thanksgiving Day	Friday, Oct. 25	Pro-D Day (Provincial)
Monday, Nov. 11	Remembrance Day	Monday, Nov. 25	Pro-D Day
Monday, Dec. 23 – Mon., Jan. 6	Winter Break	Monday, Jan. 6	Planning Day
Tuesday, Jan. 7	School Reopens	Friday, Feb. 14	Pro-D Day
Monday, Feb. 17	B.C. Family Day	Friday, May 16	AZIA Teacher Conference
Monday, Mar. 17 – Fri., Mar. 28	Spring Break	Reporting Dates	
Monday, Mar. 31	Eid-ul-Fitr*	Interim Report Card	Monday, October 21
Tuesday, Apr. 1	Schools Reopens	1 st Term Report Card	Friday, November 29
Friday, Apr. 18	Good Friday	2 nd Term Report Card	Monday, March 3
Monday, Apr. 21	Easter Monday	Final Report Card	Friday, June 20
Monday, May 19	Victoria Day		
Friday, June 6	Eid-al-Adha*		

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Thursday, Sept. 19	Meet the Teacher
Thursday, Dec. 5	Non-Instructional Day
Friday, Mar. 7	Non-Instructional Day

Religious Celebrations

Friday, September 20	Birth of Prophet Muhammad (s)*
Saturday, December 20	Birth of Sayyida Fatima Az-Zahra (a)*
Tuesday, January 14	Birth of Imam Ali (a)*
Tuesday, January 28	Bithat of Prophet Muhammad (s)*
Friday, February 14	Birth of Imam al-Hujjah (a)*
Tuesday, April 1	Eid ul-Fitr (School-wide breakfast)*
Friday & Monday, June 6 - 9	Eid al-Adha*
Monday June 15	Eid al-Ghadeer*

* Please contact the AZIA Parent Volunteer Group for volunteer opportunities!

RABBI ZIDNI ILMAN, WALHIQNI BIS SWAHLIHEEN
(My Lord, increase me in knowledge and make me of the virtuous)