



### Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As-Salaam Alaikum.

As we come to the end of our second term, I find myself reflecting on the wonderful experiences that we have all shared so far this year. From the ongoing excitement of our afterschool clubs and classroom activities, to our annual performance, the joyous celebration of religious celebrations and events, World Hijab Day, soccer competitions, 100<sup>th</sup> Day and the commencement of Ramadan! It has been a truly special time!

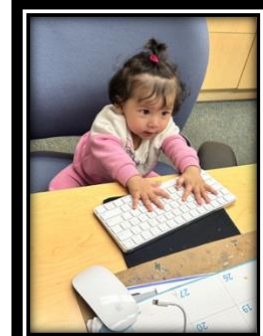
I am particularly looking forward to our upcoming student-led conferences in just a few days, where our students will take ownership of sharing their learning with you. Witnessing their confidence blossom with each achievement is truly remarkable. This reminds me of our recent and exceptional Faculty & Staff Professional Development session held back on February 14<sup>th</sup>, entitled 'Nurturing Our Children Through Education - Rooted in Divine Guidance.' We spent quality time together, both listening to the esteemed Hujjat al-Islam, Dr. Mohammad Ali Shomali speak on the matter, and later, sharing ideas with each other and some of our Madrasah colleagues as we continue to forge ways to enhance and align our schools. Special thanks to Sr. Virtue - AZIA Vice Principal, Shaykh Saleem - Director of Islamic Studies, and Br. Hossein Nasir - Principal of Madrasah for their collaborative efforts to pave the way.

With the beginning of Ramadan, I wish families a blessed and peaceful holy month. Excitingly, our 'Food Drive' has kicked off with a flurry of early activity. Dare I share that the goal is to fill Sr. Virtue's office! With Spring Break just around the corner, I trust that everyone will take the opportunity to rest, recharge, and enjoy some quality family time with loved ones.

These next few weeks offer a wonderful opportunity for renewal - of spirit, mind, and body. I encourage everyone to take the time to refresh, refocus, and return ready to tackle the final stretch of the year with energy and enthusiasm.

Within this edition, I invite you to catch just a glimpse of the so many things that make Az-Zahraa Islamic Academy such a wonderful and vibrant school!

Here are some of my favourite snaps!



*Warmest Regards,  
Paul R. Cohee  
Principal*



### Message from Islamic Studies Director

Salaam Alaykum,

I pray that you and your loved ones are in the best of health. It is hard to believe that we are ending the blessed month of Sha'baan in one week. Our school community has been buzzing with excitement and spiritual fervor with the joyous celebrations that have brought us closer together in faith and unity.

Our community came together to commemorate the births of the 3rd and 4th Imams, as well as Abul Fadhl al-Abbas (peace be upon them all). These celebrations were marked by inspiring talks, poetry and activities that helped deepen our love for these revered figures in Islamic history.

The highlight of our recent events was undoubtedly the grand celebration for the birth of our 12th Imam (may Allah hasten his return). The love and devotion displayed by all, particularly our children, was a testament to the strong faith and unity within our school community. Having a school-wide morning celebration in the gymnasium with the heartfelt recitations of the Quran and poetry, and brief talks about the Imam created an atmosphere of joy and reverence.

As we look ahead, we're excited to announce that in just one week, we'll be welcoming the Blessed Month of Ramadan. As in previous years, we'll be holding our annual donation drive to support those in need. We kindly remind parents to keep an eye on our ClassDojo and Instagram posts for updates on how to contribute to our Ramadan Food Drive. Your generosity can make a significant difference in the lives of many.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all parents for their unwavering support and active participation in our school events. Your involvement is crucial in nurturing our children's spiritual growth and fostering a sense of community.

For any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [sbhimji@azia.ca](mailto:sbhimji@azia.ca). Let's continue to work together in making this Month of Ramadan a time of reflection, generosity, and spiritual growth for our entire school community.

-Shaikh Saleem Bhimji

### ISLAMIC RESOURCES

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

### TIPS OF THE MONTH

#### Participation in Group Activities

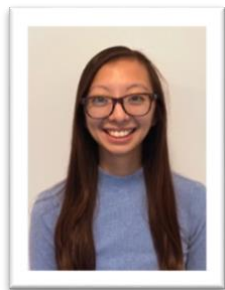
*Motivate your child to engage in class discussions and group projects to build teamwork and leadership skills.*

#### Respect for Others

*Encourage your child to be respectful and mindful of others' feelings and opinions, practicing empathy in daily interactions.*

### IN THE NEWS

#### Warm Welcome to Ms. Olan Sun!



We are thrilled to welcome Ms. Sun as our new Grade 4 teacher. She will be joining us from March 10<sup>th</sup>. She is a passionate educator with a Master's degree in Education from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor's degree in Education from the University of British Columbia. She also brings with her international baccalaureate experience, and she holds her Primary Years Program (PYP) IB certificate. With experience teaching various grade levels in both public and private schools across Greater Vancouver, she is dedicated to fostering a nurturing, engaging classroom that promotes character, curiosity, and global responsibility. Outside of teaching, she enjoys reading, hiking, and spending time with family and friends.

#### Student Led Conferences

KG to Grade 7 student led conferences will be held on Friday, March 7 (no school).

Conferences will take place from 10:30 am to 4:40pm:

- **KG – Grade 7:** 20-minute slots (3 students per slot)

- **Quran/Islamic Studies:** 10-minute individual slots

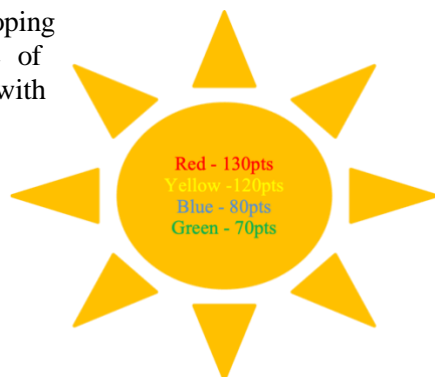
To schedule, use this link: [Schedule Your Conference](#)

Junior Kindergarten (Jr. & Sr. classes) will remain open. (No buses).

#### House Teams Leaderboard



Congratulations to all House Teams and our new points leader, the RED! Through healthy competition and collaboration, students are developing meaningful relationships, respect for one another, and a strong sense of brotherhood and sisterhood. We are so proud of the efforts of our students with their Attitude, Intention, and Respect as witnessed around the school daily. Ideally, the 'above and beyond' behaviour that is both natural and witnessed would earn a student an A.I.R. tag point! These are collected and tabulated to earn total house points! Special thanks to Ms. Blinn and her husband, Terry, for their amazing upgrades to our House Teams points tracker board!







## Ramadan in My Home

Assalamu Alaykum Dear Parents and Students,

As the blessed month of Ramadan has arrived, we invite you to participate in our **"Ramadan in My Home" Challenge!**

From JK to Grade 7, we encourage all our students to create a short video (maximum 3 minutes) showcasing how you welcome and decorate your home for the holy month. Share with us what Ramadan means to you and your family!

Let's celebrate the spirit of Ramadan together and inspire one another.

**Deadline:** Tuesday, March 11th.

**Email your videos to:** [pvg@azia.ca](mailto:pvg@azia.ca)

May Allah (SWT) bless each student's efforts and grant us all a month of enlightenment, reflection, and closeness to Him. May this Ramadan be a source of profound blessings and spiritual growth for us all.

Ramadan Mubarak! Eltemas e dua,

~ Sr. Virtue (Vice Principal & Grade 2 Teacher)



## Quran in My Heart



Salaam Alaykum Dear Students and Parents,

Alhamdulillah, we have completed both a practice round and the official in-class round for the Qur'an in My Heart Challenge on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>.

All parents of the children who qualified have been notified via ClassDojo Messages and the finals will take place next week Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. The primary student challenge will take place at 9:00 am and the intermediate students will recite at 11:00 am – insha' Allah.

We are excited for their continued success. May Allah (SWT) bless all the students for their efforts, grant them ease in their memorization, and fill their hearts with the light of the Qur'an.

Stay tuned for updates in our next AZIA newsletter!

~ With Duas, Sr.Zainab & Sr.Masuma

## Food Drive

As Ramadan is upon us, AZIA and the PVG are excited to once again host our annual Ramadan Food Drive from February 24th to March 12th. Please see the flyer on campus for more details. Let's come together to support those in need in our community. May Allah reward you abundantly for your contributions.

## Gr. 2 Fundraising

Salaamun Alaykum Dear AZIA Parents and Students,



We invite you to support this Grade 2 fundraising initiative. Not only will these chocolates make wonderful gifts for friends and family, but purchasing them will also support our Grade 2 class fundraising efforts.

Please refer to the attached poster for details on how to order and the variety of chocolates available. Your support will help us achieve our goals.

Thank you for your participation and generosity!

~ Sr. Virtue (Vice Principal & Grade 2 Teacher)



## UN SDGs & Service Learning

With Student Council's leadership and inspiration, all students should be commended for doing their part in helping to keep our environment clean. They have partnered with the Student Council to share stories, perform skits, and promote the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), by spreading awareness across all grades. A big part of this effort is our composting program, which has our student service learning on full display. Our Grade 6s have been vigilant in their daily collection of each classroom's composting for proper disposal. ~Sr. Mitra (Student Counsel Sponsor)





### Clean Recycling Material Wanted

We are requesting a variety of recycling materials to help supply our Makerspace 'STREAM' room. Your contributions will help make more creative activities possible. For more details on the types of items that we need, please check out the postings around campus! We greatly appreciate your support!

~Ms. Jacque (Grade 3 Teacher / Student Activities Coordinator)



### Professional Development at AZIA

We were deeply grateful for Shaykh Saleem and Br. Hussein Sheriff in their leadership in facilitating greater collaboration with Az-Zahraa Islamic School and Madrasah. A joint professional development workshop, 'Nurturing our Children through Education Rooted in Divine Guidance,' was held on February 14th, graced by Hujjat al-Islam Dr. Mohammad Ali Shomali. Staff, teachers, and volunteers from both schools explored integrating core Islamic values into all aspects of our education programming. The workshop, geared towards defining an ideal Muslim graduate, affirmed many of our existing practices! Thanks to the esteemed Shaykh Shomali's contributions in his presentation entitled, 'Holistic Approach in Islamic Education: The Framework and Priorities,' we were further inspired towards continuous improvement in supporting each child to know themselves and their Lord.

~ Front Office



### AZIA Board Announcement



April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (stay tuned for the registration link)

## HIGHLIGHTS through January & February

### A Fresh Start to the Year!

We began the new year with inspiring KG - Gr. 3 & Gr. 4 - Gr. 7 cohort assemblies, where Sr. Virtue shared her thoughts on how we can make a difference. She emphasized that "Education is Action" and encouraged each of our students to reflect on their choices, helping to guide and motivate them to be mindful in the creation of meaningful action, charity and change in their lives.

~ Front Office



### Hopping into Happiness: Bunny Day

Bunny Day was a delightful experience for both Jr. and Sr. JKG, as they joyfully watched, learned, and played with the bunnies. Their happy faces and lovely smiles filling the day with happiness and wonder. ~ Ms. Silva (ECE Coordinator)



### Annual Performance - 'Journey of Light'

Our Annual Performance was a joyous occasion, filled with a wonderful display of commitment, preparation, and execution. Each of the performances was fun to watch and awe-inspiring for the younger students. It was truly a gift and a blessing to see our children engage with such enthusiasm. Their hard work, along with the support of both teachers and parents, contributed to the success of the event.

~ Front Office

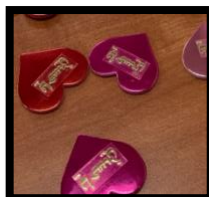


### Islamic Studies Activities

In Islamic Studies, Grades 1 through 4 had an inspiring month learning about the Heroes of Karbala—

Imam Hussain (as), Hazrat Abbas (as), and Imam Zayn al-Abideen (as). We also explored the life of Imam Mahdi (aj), through crafts, videos, and discussions. The students were deeply inspired by their sacrifices. Now, we are excited to begin learning about the Holy Month of Ramadan and preparing for this blessed time, Insha'Allah.

~ Sr. Shabnam (Islamic Studies Teacher)







### Parent Support!

We are deeply grateful for the dedication of all of our parents. So many moms and dads work hard behind the scenes to enrich the experience for our children. This enhances the school's cultural and spiritual life. From PVG's tireless support in making and setting up decorations, hanging balloons, curtains and lights, putting out the carpets, stage and chairs, to those who contribute to our bake sales and make donations to the school's teaching and learning resources, we say thank you! Your invaluable time, support and contributions make our work both enjoyable and possible.

~ Front Office



### 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School

We were thrilled to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school! The students had a fantastic time engaging in fun activities,

enjoying snacks, and dressing up as elderly men and women. Ms. Silva played the **old lady** character, "Rose," bringing extra joy to the celebration! It was a memorable day full of **learning and** laughter. ~ Front Office



### Our Wonderful Kindergartners

#### A Beautiful Message!



Thank you, to 'My Little Stars!' Your wide smiles, warm hugs, and joyful energy light up my day and fill it with blessings. Every moment spent in your class has been a treasure. Thank you for the love and joy you bring, I am so proud of you!

~ Sr. Kauser Mirza (Principal's Assistant)

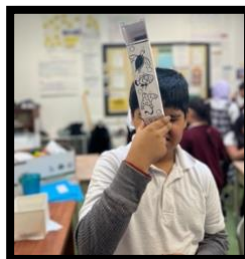


### Grade 3

On February 5th, the Grade 3 class was visited by a volunteer, Ms. Lynn, with SCWIST (Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology). Ms. Lynn taught the students about the properties of light (which does not bend), types of light (both natural and artificial), as well as about mirrors and the law of refraction. The students then made their very own periscopes. It was so beneficial for the students to have a scientist from out in the community come and visit us in the classroom.

Thank you, Ms. Lynn!

~ Ms. Jacquie (Grade 3 Teacher / Student Activities Coordinator)



## IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

### Drop-Off Traffic Flow & Safety

- Do not stop or park your vehicle in the 'school bus designated' (red) zone,
- Ensure that your vehicle is to the far right in the 'drop-off' (yellow) zone.
- Or, park in Zone #2 or #3.
- Refrain from stopping or parking at the main entrance doors.
- Support Student Council by helping AZIA be an 'idle-free school!'

### Pick-Up

- Doors open at 3:30pm.
  - Note: Faculty and Staff often have meetings right after school, so promptness is appreciated.
- Avoid any early pickup at 3:00 - 3:30pm.
- Follow 'gym exit' traffic flow by exiting on the playground side.
- Communicate important early pickup with the Front Office at [attendance@azia.ca](mailto:attendance@azia.ca).
  - Provide the teacher with 1or 2 days advance notice of early pickup.
- Try to set any appointment outside of school hours (8:30 - 3:30pm).







### Photo Gallery

#### Science Club

(Grade 4-7)



#### Basketball Club

(KG-Grade 3)



#### Cooking Club

(Grade 2-5)



#### Girls' Fitness

(Grade 4 – Grade 7)



#### Boys' Basketball Club

(Grade 4- 7)





### School Calendar 2024/2025 1446/1447

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

<b>First Day of School</b>			
Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024 – Noon Dismissal			
<b>School &amp; Religious Holidays</b>		<b>Pro-D Days</b>	
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	<b>Reporting Dates</b>	
Monday, Mar. 31	Eid-ul-Fitr*	Interim Report Card	Monday, October 21
Tuesday, Apr. 1	Schools Reopens	1 <sup>st</sup> Term Report Card	Friday, November 29
Friday, Apr. 18	Good Friday	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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*		

<b>Parent/Teacher Conferences</b>	
Thursday, Sept. 19	Meet the Teacher
Thursday, Dec. 5	Non-Instructional Day
Friday, Mar. 7	Non-Instructional Day

<b>Religious Celebrations</b>	
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)