



AZ-ZAHRAA ISLAMIC ACADEMY

ISLAMIC FOUNDATION. OUTSTANDING EDUCATION. CONFIDENCE & SOCIAL SKILLS

Dear AZIA Parents,
Salaamun Alaikum,

I am delighted to welcome our new and returning families, faculty and staff to the 2024-2025 school year here at AZ-Zahraa Islamic Academy! As we embark on this exciting journey together, I want to express my gratitude for the trust you have placed in us to educate and nurture your children.

As we begin this year, I am thrilled to introduce our new faculty and staff members who bring their unique expertise and enthusiasm to our school community. They are eager to get to know your children and work with them to achieve their full potential. Our returning team members have been busy preparing for the new school start and have launched this year very successfully. I am also excited to introduce our amazing new Vice Principal, Sr. Virtue, who will be working closely with me and other leadership team members to support our students and staff.

The summer renovations for the new Junior Kindergarten space and the schoolwide deep clean went exceptionally well, with great credit to the school board, the team of various tradespeople, and our onsite facilities personnel led by Br. Ali. We are equally excited to announce that new extracurricular (after-school) activity options will be introduced soon, providing even more opportunities for our students to explore their interests and talents. Stay tuned for more information and signup options through your classroom teacher for these exciting additions to our programming!

As we rely heavily on the support of our parent community, I would like to extend a special invitation to those interested in volunteering to connect with Sr. Virtue, who will help you find the perfect opportunity to get involved. Your contributions will make a significant difference in the lives of our students.

To ensure that we can stay connected and keep you informed about all the wonderful things happening in our school, please take a moment to ensure that you have updated your MySchool profile. Also, familiarize yourself with ClassDojo, which is our primary communication tool between each classroom teacher and you at home. In the very near future, we will also be launching a refreshed website.

I am looking forward to a fantastic year ahead and appreciate your partnership in making Az-Zahraa Islamic Academy a nurturing and engaging learning environment for all our students.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are always here to support you and your child.

Sincerely,
Paul R. Cohee BPE, MEd
Principal



FACULTY & STAFF

Junior Kindergarten

Mrs. Aurelia Silva
Mrs. Erma De Justo
Sr. Nageen Minai
Sr. Fehmina Ali
Sr. Ashraf Amin
Sr. Soheila Moradi

Kindergarten

Ms. Pei-Zhen Chiu

Grade 1

Ms. Shray Presenger

Grade 2

Sr. Virtue El-Aleyrt

Grade 3

Ms. Jacquie Nowak

Grade 4

Sr. Saira Sultana

Grade 5

Br. Adem Hamzagic

Grade 6

Sr. Mitra Nevaie

Grade 7

Ms. Natalie Blinn

Quran

Sr. Zainab Bachoo
Sr. Masuma Daya
Sr. Zehra Tamaki

Islamic Studies

Sheikh Saleem Bhimji
Sr. Shabnam Mithani
Sr. Zehra Tamaki

Educational Assistants

Sr. Zahida Dhalla – EA Coordinator
Sr. Najwa Chehade – Learning Support Coordinator
Sr. Masuma Daya
Sr. Mahboobeh Salari
Sr. Shahida Somji
Sr. Sakina Sayani
Sr. Masooma Jafry
Sr. Nasra Said
Br. Mohammad Jahromi

Custodian

Br. Ali Safdari

Front Office

Sr. Femida Jagani – Office Administrator
Sr. Kauser Mirza – Principal's Assistant

Islamic Studies Coordinator

Sheikh Saleem Bhimji

Vice Principal

Sr. Virtue El-Aleyrt

Principal

Mr. Paul Cohee

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT

We would like to invite all parents and families to our Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, September 19, from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. The evening will begin at 5:45 with an introduction of the leadership team. The evening will continue from 6:00pm with two sessions where parents can visit their child's classroom and listen to a brief talk regarding curriculum and classroom procedures. This is a great opportunity to meet staff and fellow parents. If you cannot attend the evening, we encourage you to please contact your child's teacher.

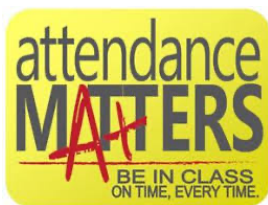


***Please note that all students will be dismissed at 2:10pm on September 19 to allow parents to return at 5:30pm for Meet the Teacher Night.**

UNIFORM INFORMATION

AZIA uniforms are available from Neat Uniforms: 1050 Boundary Road, Burnaby. For girls, please purchase the cardigan, tunic (for JKG – Grade 3), kilt (for Grade 4 – 7) and a white hijab. For all boys, please purchase the pullover sweater, and dark gray pants. All students should be wearing white shirts which can be bought from any retailer. Uniform items can also be purchased online by visiting <https://www.mccarthyuniforms.ca/shop/school/2004#allProducts>.

ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS



In the event of illness, and your child is going to be absent from school, we require an email communication to be sent to attendance@azia.ca for Ministry Auditing purposes. If your child will be arriving late or leaving early due to an appointment, please notify the classroom teacher well in advance. Late students **must** be signed in at the office to receive a late slip. Early departing students must be signed out at the front office. These measures allow us to ensure everyone's safety. Thank you for your cooperation!

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP AT HOME?

Parents play a vital role in the physical, academic, social and spiritual success of a child. Below are a few suggestions for good habits we can all try to establish:

- Ensure your child gets enough sleep and nutritional meals, with treats occasionally.
- Establish a homework routine that is age appropriate and fits around the extra-curricular activities of your child, both within and outside of AZIA.
- Provide social opportunities by attending programs at the mosque and community centres on a regular basis.
- Role model wudhu, love of prayer, and recitation of the Holy Quran daily.



NUTRITION - HEALTHY SNACKS & LUNCHES



We continue our collective efforts to reduce the sugar consumption within our community. Healthy eating leads to good physical health, more attentiveness, a reduction in mood and energy swings, and promotes overall academic and spiritual well-being. Please help your child by providing healthy snacks and lunches. Occasional treats are special, but too much sugar and preservatives is unhealthy. Please coordinate with your child's teacher so that birthday treats can be combined. Due to some students being severely allergic to nuts, nuts are prohibited. Please also do not send sugar filled candy or drinks.

MEDICAL ALERT



If your child has any health care needs that require support at school, including the administration of medication, our medicine consent form must be fully completed with all important information. The medicine consent is available at the front office and must be completed every September and whenever a change arises. Students must not be in possession of any medication at school, as all medication must be stored at the front office. Staff may only administer medication to students with a properly completed medicine consent form on file.

NUT SENSITIVE SCHOOL (NUTS ARE PROHIBITED)

Due to several students with allergies, some life threatening, we ask for your cooperation in ensuring that all food items brought in to AZIA are pre-packaged and single item packaged store-bought items only and have no nuts or nut by-products. Check with the classroom teacher or the office prior to sending and food items to be shared with classmates. Please ensure that all snacks and lunches follow this policy. We thank you for your vigilance.



CONTACTING YOUR CHILD, OR YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER



If you wish to speak to a staff member or your child during school hours, please call the office at (604) 274-7861 to leave a message. ClassDojo is the way to keep in touch with your child's teacher. We ask parents and visitors to humbly refrain from approaching classes and teachers during, before or after the school day as this can be interrupting when teachers are trying to complete routines. We thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS ASSESSMENT (FSA) TESTING - GRADES 4 & 7

All Grade 4 and 7 students will participate in the Ministry of Education FSA Tests at the end of October. An information sheet will be shared out to parents. We will Insh'Allah do the same this year. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

SCHOOL BOARD TOWN HALL



AZIA is inviting all parents to an important School Board Townhall meeting on September 26, 2024 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm . Please take this opportunity to connect with the School Board and be part of this important conversation about the future of our school.

Please RSVP by September 20, 2024 at <https://tinyurl.com/BoardTownHall>

SCHOOL BUS UPDATE

Bus schedule information has been shared to the school community. We continue to do our best to create a schedule that works for all our students and families, but also recognize that there continues to be growing need. We will work to resolve any issues that arise in September as swiftly as possible and ask for both patience and understanding when the need arises.

PARKING LOT SAFETY & DAILY TRAFFIC FLOW

For the safety of all students, parents and family members, we ask all drivers to please drive slowly and carefully in the parking lot. Please allow our school bus the right of way and plenty of space to enter and leave the main gates of the school. Also, for morning drop-off and after school pick-up, please park your vehicle and walk into the gymnasium to meet your child. Do not park in front of the handicap spaces as you will be blocking traffic flow, and refrain from parking in these spaces unless your vehicle is licensed to do so. The Academy doors will continue to open the doors at 8:00 am and reopen at 3:30 pm. We appreciate your assistance with this.



Az-Zahraa Islamic Academy Morning Traffic Flow

First Day of School

Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024 – Noon Dismissal

School & Religious Holidays

Monday, Sept. 2	Labour Day
Monday, Sept. 30	Truth & Reconciliation Day
Monday, Oct. 14	Thanksgiving Day
Monday, Nov. 11	Remembrance Day
Monday, Dec. 23 – Mon., J	Winter Break
Tuesday, Jan. 7	School Reopens
Monday, Feb. 17	B.C. Family Day
Monday, Mar. 17 – Fri., Ma	Spring Break
Monday, Mar. 31	Eid-ul-Fitr*
Tuesday, Apr. 1	Schools Reopens
Friday, Apr. 18	Good Friday
Monday, Apr. 21	Easter Monday
Monday, May 19	Victoria Day
Friday, June 6	Eid-al-Adha*

Pro-D Days

Tuesday, Sept. 3	Planning Day
Friday, Sept. 20	Pro-D Day
Friday, Oct. 25	Pro-D Day (Provincial)
Monday, Nov. 25	Pro-D Day
Monday, Jan. 6	Planning Day
Friday, Feb. 14	Pro-D Day
Friday, May 16	AZIA Teacher Conference

Reporting Dates

Interim Report Card	Monday, October 21
1 st Term Report Card	Friday, November 29
2 nd Term Report Card	Monday, March 3
Final Report Card	Friday, June 20

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	Birth of Prophet Muhammad (s)*
Friday, February 14	Birth of Imam al-Hujjah (a)*
Tuesday, April 1	Eid ul-Fitr (School-wide breakfast)*
Monday, June 9	Eid al-Adha*
Monday June 15	Eid al-Ghadeer*

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