



Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we welcome the month of November, I am thrilled to share with you some of the exciting events and achievements that have taken place at AZIA over the past few weeks. Our after-school clubs have been a huge hit with our students, we are on the cusp of having our first-ever student council, and plans for an ongoing hot lunch program are well underway. While I take this moment to express my gratitude to our dedicated teachers and staff who have worked tirelessly to provide these opportunities, I also thank each and every one of you for your continued support and partnership. In particular, our Parent Volunteer Group (PVG) has been instrumental in our successful delivery of extra events and activities. As a result, this has been an incredible start to the year, filled with excitement, learning and growth.

Our recent interim report cards have also provided valuable insights into our students' progress, and I encourage you to continue to work with your child to set goals and celebrate achievements. On that note, I encourage all of us as a community to be extremely mindful of the nutritional value of our snacks and treats. Before sending along candy or a drink, take a moment to check the gram content of sugar. I recently shared this [link](#) with our team, as we continue to explore ways to improve every student's focus and concentration while here at school.

As we move forward into the month of November, I would also like to share a few important dates and reminders. Our second Board Town Hall meeting is scheduled for November 12th. I strongly encourage you to attend as this is a great opportunity to stay informed about the latest developments in our school and to ensure that you have an opportunity for your voice to be heard. Also, November 11th is Remembrance Day and November 25th will be a professional development day, so there will be no classes on those dates.

With the change in weather and the earlier onset of darkness, I would like to remind you to ensure your child has warm clothing for recess and reflective items to increase visibility during early morning school arrival and evening commutes.

In this issue, we are excited to share with you many stories and pictures that showcase the amazing activities and achievements of our students. Once again, I thank you for your continued support and partnership. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful November.

Warmest Regards,
Paul R. Cohee
Principal



Message from Islamic Studies Director

Assalamunalaikum,

As the Islamic Studies Director, I've been deeply involved in several key initiatives aimed at enriching the student experience and fostering community growth. One of our major projects has been the revamp of the school library, transforming it into a more welcoming space for students while sourcing new literature, both Islamic and secular, to inspire and engage their young minds. In addition to this, we are planning an upcoming conference for **fathers**, titled "*Nurturing Tomorrow's Generation Today: The Father's Sacred Duty*." This event will bring together religious scholars and education experts to discuss the pivotal role fathers play in shaping the moral and spiritual development of their children. Lastly, we have been working hard to enhance our Islamic Studies curriculum for Grades 5, 6, and 7, revamping our Wudhu and Salat Assessment Program, lessons on Salat al-Jama'ah and al-Jumu'ah, and sessions on Muslim growth and development (Buloogh). These initiatives aim to deepen students' understanding of their faith, while also preparing them for the spiritual and social responsibilities they will face as they grow.

-Shaikh Saleem Bhimji

ISLAMIC RESOURCES

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

TIP OF THE MONTH

Healthy Snacks and Lunches

Pack nutritious food like fruits, veggies, and whole grains that keep your child energized throughout the school day.

Prayer and Quran Recitation

Encourage daily prayer and Quran recitation at home, fostering their connection to faith. Set aside a specific time for this.



HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Our Prophet Mohammed's (PBUH & HF) Celebration was filled with joy and unity

On September 20th, Az-Zahra Islamic Academy celebrated the birth of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH & HF) and his family with joy and unity. The event featured a delightful potluck, showcasing delicious dishes brought by students, staff, and parents. Throughout the day, engaging storytelling, nasheeds, and reflections on the Prophet's life deepened our appreciation for his exemplary character. This heartwarming gathering reinforced the values of compassion, generosity, and unity that the Prophet (PBUH & HF) embodied.



Terry Fox Run

On September 27th, Az-Zahra Islamic Academy proudly hosted its annual Terry Fox Run, where students from all grades participated enthusiastically. Together, we surpassed our fundraising target to support cancer research, honoring Terry Fox's legacy. The day was filled with excitement as children ran, jogged, and walked with dedication, followed by refreshing healthy snacks to celebrate their efforts. It was a memorable day of giving, unity, and healthy fun!



Stay Connected Through My School Portal

We are excited that everyone is becoming familiar with **My School Portal**, our central hub for updates and announcements. We kindly request your photo consent, as your acknowledgment matters to us which was sent on October 28th, 2024. Stay informed by keeping an eye on announcements sent through the portal. We look forward to connecting every family and keeping you up-to-date!



A Warm Welcome to Our New Senior JKG Students!

We are thrilled to welcome our new Senior JKG students to Az-Zahra Islamic Academy! Your presence brings excitement and joy to our classrooms. We look forward to a year filled with learning, laughter, and growth, supported by our dedicated teachers and staff. Here's to new friendships and an unforgettable school year ahead!





UPDATES-OCTOBER EDITION

We're Going Digital – Follow Us on Social Media!

We're 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!



Hot Lunch Fundraiser Announcement

UPCOMING HOT LUNCH DATES:

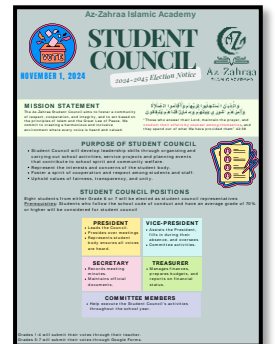
November 6th
November 20th
December 4th

We're thrilled to announce the return of our Hot Lunches, led by Sr. Sakina along with PVG team! These lunches not only enhance the AZIA experience but also promote charity, with a portion of the proceeds going to worthy causes. The first Hot Lunch on October 30th, led by B. Adem, was a hit! It featured delicious hotdogs and chips! We encourage all parents and guardians to support this initiative. Thank you for your support—let's make lunchtime special for our students!



Student Council Elections – Voted by Students!

We are thrilled to announce the Student Council Elections on November 1st, open to students in grades 6 and 7. Available positions include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Committee Members, who will support the Council's activities throughout the year. We encourage all eligible students to participate and wish the best of luck to all candidates! Let your voice be heard and help shape our school's future!



Yellow House Shines Bright in 2024

The Yellow House has done it again! After winning the House Cup last year, they led the Terry Fox Run and excelled in the Air Tags challenge for keeping their momentum from last year. With Blue and Red House close behind, it's been a spirited competition. Congratulations, Yellow House, for setting a shining example of dedication and teamwork by earning 70 points so far!



Parent Volunteer Group (PVG)



The AZIA Parent Volunteer Group (PVG) has been amazing in bringing our community together! From organizing festive Eid celebrations to running our hot lunch program along with Sr. Sakina, their efforts have created a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere for our students. We're truly grateful for their dedication and support! Want to join the fun? Reach out to us at pvg@azia.ca!

HEARTFELT MESSAGES FROM OUR TEACHERS

Junior Kindergarten

Since September, our new Senior JKG class has enjoyed enriching activities, from P.E. with Coach Hossein and the Terry Fox Run to exploring diversity and a leaf hunt scavenger. A highlight was their joyful class photo during the potluck celebration of Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) birthday, creating wonderful memories together.



-Beautiful Message from Sr. Erma Dejusto





Kindergarten

September and October were filled with exciting learning! Students practiced writing their names, uppercase A-E, lowercase a-e, and the short vowel sound 'a'. Math came alive with Lego-designed numbers 0-10, boosting counting and early math skills. It's been a wonderful blend of creativity and growth!

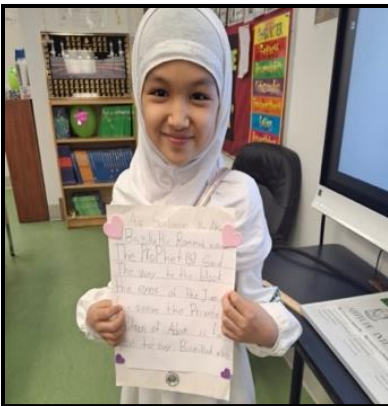
- Beautiful Message from Sr. Pei-Zhen Chiu



Grade 4

In September 2024, Grade 4 students at Az-Zahra Islamic Academy celebrated Milad Al Nabi with devotion and enthusiasm. They decorated their classrooms, enjoyed a potluck, and presented inspiring reflections on “How Do I Show My Love for My Prophet?”—a highlight that renewed their dedication to following his example.

- Beautiful Message from Sr. Saira Sultan



REMINDER!

This month, we are focusing on the following:

Early Departures: For a smooth departure, please notify us by 12:00 PM if you plan to pick up your child early. Inform the class teacher first to avoid missed tasks. If your child is not taking the bus, please let us know by noon. Thank you for helping us keep everything running smoothly!



Late Arrivals: To ensure a smooth start, students arriving at 8:40 AM or later must check in at the office for a late slip. This policy applies to all grades from JKG to Grade 7 and helps us keep accurate attendance records. Also, we kindly ask that parents drop students off at the Front Office – please do not walk your child to class. Stop at the office to ensure late slips are provided! Thank you!

Playground Clean-Up: A clean playground makes for a great place to play! Please encourage your child to keep it litter-free, and thank you to those already helping maintain it. Let's work together to keep our playground sparkling and fun for everyone!



Parking Lot Safety & Traffic Flow: Safety First! To ensure smooth pick-ups and drop-offs, please follow the designated traffic flow in the parking lot. This keeps everyone safe and minimizes delays. For “Quick Goodbyes” or meet-ups, please use the designated spots and avoid stopping in the middle of the road. Your cooperation helps keep our community safe—thank you!



AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS (September 30th - November 22nd)

Martial Arts

Led by Br. Hussain (Mon, KG–Grade 2) and (Wed Grade 3- Grade 7 only boys) and Sr. Jacquie (Wed for all girls, KG-Grade 7)

Astronomy club

Explore the wonders of the stars and planets with Sr. Natalie every Tuesday. (Grade 4 – Grade7)

Spanish Language

Sr. Virtue will engage students in fun, interactive Spanish lessons every Wednesday. All Grades

Robotics club

Dive into the world of technology by building robots with our Robotics Club, held every Wednesday. (Grade 7)

Microsoft skills

Develop essential computer skills with Br. Adem on Thursdays. (Grade 4 – Grade7)

Soccer Club

Build Soccer skills and team work with Br. Hossein on Friday. (Grade 4 – Grade 6)





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 (<i>Provincial</i>)
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)

Photo Day

November 7, 2024 Both class photos and individual student photos will be taken.
Photo Retake Day on November 28, 2024

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