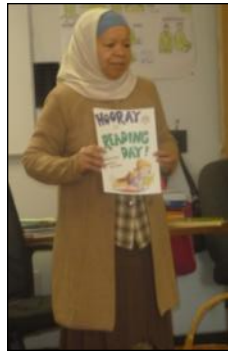




A Message from the Principal

Alhumdulillah we wrapped up our March theme, "Enjoy Books!" by sharing the results of our reading survey. The completed responses from two-thirds of our students indicated that most of our students are reading daily and are selecting a variety of books at and beyond their grade level. The results also showed that most of the students are reading books from their own classrooms and the school library. We encourage all parents to take their



children to public libraries, as our students are ready to broaden their selections and experience other exciting activities related to books held at local public libraries.

The month of March also brought encouraging news about our community's support for Iqra Academy. A number of community members met with our School Board and staff to come up with ways to help the school that will, inshaAllah, lead to some tangible results. We are also grateful to the community members and a major corporation that recently donated valuable office and media equipment to our school. May Allah (swt) reward everyone for their help and contributions, ameen.



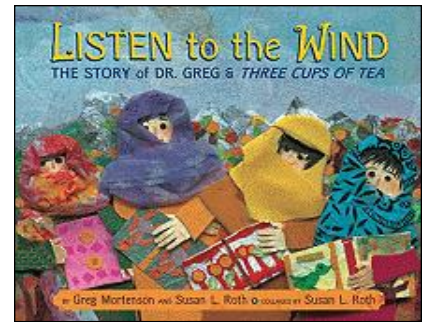
Many thanks to the parents, alumni, and community helpers who read to our students and discussed books during our reading month.

Each classroom also learned about Greg Mortenson's work to help build schools in remote villages of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Our Reading Resource teacher, Sr. Lauri Patel, read Mortenson's book, "Listen to the Wind," to the lower grades and the upper grades are reading "Three Cups of Tea" with their Language Arts teachers. Many of the students, including the youngest pre-schoolers were inspired when they learned about the Pennies for Peace program that collects donated pennies from school children to help by books and classroom supplies in the newly built schools. So, we launched our own drive to contribute to this cause and are collecting our pennies in a container at the school. Alhumdulillah our students related to this story and thought they too could and



Our April school-wide activities will focus on learning to appreciate poetry. We will include Islamic Literature and the poetry specified in the core curriculum. We invite parents and interested community members to stroll down our hallways at the end of the month to appreciate our students own compositions of haikus, limericks, rhyming stanzas, and more.

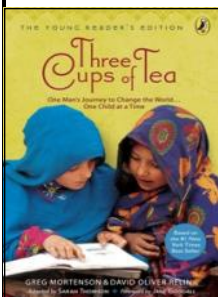
Wan R. Ismail-Ebling
Principal



* **SPRING** *
* **BREAK** *
* (No *
* **SCHOOL)** *
* **APRIL** *
* **18-22** *

Inside this issue:

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Iqra Academy of Utah admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.



The Muslim Student Association Presents:

Happily Ever Hereafter

The 6th Annual Conference

Speakers:

- Abu Hafsa (AbdulMalik Clare)
- Abu Shahadah
- Ossama Elshammy
- And Our Well Respected Scholars

Admissions:

\$25 Early Registration, \$35 Regular Admission
Admissions include:
2 day conference, 1 lunch, 2 dinners,
and Daycare. Family Packages Available

When?

Friday, April 15th from 3:30PM-10:30PM
Saturday, April 16th from 10:00AM - 10:30PM

For more information, visit us at www.msasllc.com
facebook.com/msaslcc

**April 15th at Salt Lake Community
College, Oak Room**

**April 16th at University of Utah,
Orson Spencer Hall Auditorium**

Feeding the Homeless

On Friday, March 4th and Monday, March 7th, donated food was served to the homeless for dinner. Iqra Academy and United in Service for Humanity facilitated the successful event that was supported by all aspects of our community. Mild versions of ethnic foods accompanied American food along side milk for the kids and dessert for all. InshaAllah both those donating their time, efforts, and food, as well as those receiving the food, benefited from the activity. A special thanks to Sr. Wagma Mohmand for leading the project and seeing it through. May Allah (swt) humble us all so that we might regularly help our neighbors in need, ameen.



CLASS UPDATES: EARLY ELEMENTARY

Pre-School & Pre-K



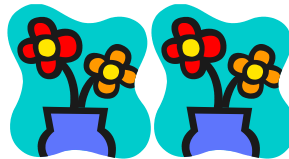
Pre-School and Pre-K: Alhumdulillah, We just finished the alphabet in both classes, and the children were very excited to reach the end. We had Officer Friendly come and

visit our class and taught us about safety and stranger danger. We also learned about Dr. Seuss and the children really enjoyed his books. We are talking about spring and have just put up our spring bulletin board.

In Pre-K we started learning to read, mashaAllah! We started with some basic sight words, then started a book called "Sam," that they can all now read. This week we will start our second book with more sight words. They are so excited about learning to read.



Sr. Missy Abouhassan
Pre-School and Pre-K



Early Arabic & Islamic Studies

Pre-School: We are reviewing numbers, shapes, and colors. We have two more letters left to finish the Arabic alphabet. We are memorizing surat Al-Falaq, the children are having lots of fun doing rabe-e-a (spring) activities.



Pre-K: MashaAllah, the students are memorizing surat Al-Asr. They memorized three hadeeth and are getting ready for the Islamic Competition. They are learning the five senses (al hawaase al thams). They love to learn new things.

Kindergarten: MashaAllah! they memorized surat Al-Kafirun. They started doing salat with the upper grade students and taking turns to be the imaam or muadhin.

Sr. Soltana Hamidat
Early Elementary Arabic and Islamic Studies Teacher

Kindergarten



In Kindergarten we read many stories in March as part of the month long emphasis on reading. Many of the books we read were Dr. Seuss stories. We had a reading assembly as well. We also had some visitors in our class who read some interesting and fun stories to the children.

We are finishing up our reading theme *Down On the Farm*. Kids learned a lot about farm animals through different activities. Our next reading will be *Spring Is Here*.

Our Big Book selections include a contrast of the serious and the silly. Children will work on recognizing and write the letters *w* and *y* and learn the sounds these letters represent.

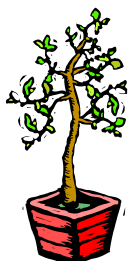


Kindergartens have started taking computer classes and they are very excited to learn computer skills.

In Science we are on our Plant unit, which ties in nicely to our spring activities. In Math kindergartners are learning different ways of addition and they enjoy it very much. Our next topic will be about subtraction.



Sr. Aisha Attique
Kindergarten Teacher



CLASS UPDATES: ELEMENTARY

1st Grade

Last month was our reading month and mashaAllah, our First graders read more than 25 different Dr. Seuss Books and learned basic facts about the author. Our students also enjoyed many volunteers coming and reading to them, amongst them was an alumnus of Iqra Academy. My students have finally learned to be excited about reading, I encourage parents to support this train of thought by taking the kids to the library and also reading to them at home.

Another exciting upcoming event is our "Science Fair" which will be on April 1st. The theme for this year's Science Fair is "Our Solar System," prizes will be given to the 1st and 2nd place projects based on creativity. I can't wait to see what the kids can do, inshaAllah it will be amazing.

The school year is almost over, thank you for your continuing support.

Sr. Hanifa Dhedhy
First Grade Teacher



3rd Grade

In Math, the Third Graders focused on multiplication and division concepts and skills. Number models for these operations were used through problem solving, mental math, and reflexes. Hands-on activities were essential in achieving objectives. We built bridges out of fan-folded, equal-sized rectangles. Then we tested how much weight each bridge could hold without collapsing.

In Science, we learned about simple machines around the house. When forces are applied through simple machines, they affect the direction and/or amount of resulting force. We also distinguished the difference between insulators and conductors. Wool socks and aluminum foil helped make good experiments for this concept.

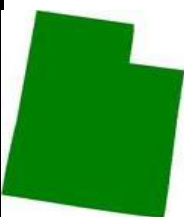


In Social Studies, we learned that America is a land of immigrants. People from around the world come to the United States and bring their customs such as art, architecture, music and other elements of culture. New customs develop here as a result. This makes America a unique and rich country.



Sr. Murni Mohamed
Third Grade Teacher

4th Grade



Utah is the 4th grade Social Studies curriculum throughout the year. Currently we're studying those who discovered a lot of Utah's beautiful sights such as lakes, cities, canyons, rivers, and mountains. Jim Bridger who first discovered the Great Salt Lake. Other explorers such as Peter Skeene Ogden, Etienne Provost and Louis Vasquez, have had places in Utah named after them. Jedediah Smith who was a fur trapper lived a dangerous life, one of his ears got ripped off by a black bear and had to be sewn back on.

More to study and learn.

Fia Bartley
Fourth Grade Teacher



Arabic and Islamic Studies (1st through 5th Grade)

Alhumdulillah, all of the Arabic classes are almost done with their Arabic textbooks and we will soon start doing some cumulative reviews in reading, spelling, writing and vocabulary.

In Islamic Studies we are focusing on Hadiths for specific Islamic topics: in First grade we are talking

about Iman mufassal, and specifically on the belief in the Angels, the Second grade is learning about the manners of eating and drinking, in Third grade we are discussing shirk and kufur, and the Fourth and Fifth graders are studying Hajj and how to perform it.

Sr. Manar Marie
Arabic and Islamic Studies Teacher

4th & 5th Grade Math

I am pleased to announce that we have finished the curriculum for fourth and fifth grade (Saxon math).

Now, we are starting our review to prepare for the CRT Exam which is around the corner.

Please make dua for our students so they can score high.

Sr. Farkhanda Shahab
4th & 5th Grade Math Teacher



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Iqra Academy benefits from Box Tops for Education. You can find the Box Tops logo on many items you purchase everyday. For every box tops logo you cut out and turn in to the school, Iqra gets 10 cents. So send yours in today!




Please Support Iqra Academy through:

- Enrollment
- Donations
- Dua'as

As we begin planning for the 2011–2012 school year we need help in all three areas.

If you are planning to enroll your children in Iqra, please let us know as soon as possible. Also let us know if you are planning on returning, and kindly encourage your friends to do the same!

Donations both monetary and time are always appreciated. Go to iqra-utah.org to donate online.



Thank you for supporting Iqra Academy's Book Fair

Alhumdulillah we sold a number of books, earned books for our school, raised a little bit of money, and gave parents an opportunity to grow their home libraries.

A special thanks to Br. Ejaz for supplying the Islamic Books for the fair.

And please always remember us in your prayers and dua'as. Truly our success comes from Allah (swt) alone, ameen.



Friend Iqra Academy on Facebook and get all the latest news.

How to Incorporate Zikr into Our Lives

The aspect of Zikr, the remembrance of Allah, is part of "what sets apart the living from the dead" (Bukhari).

While many aspects of Zikr are specifically defined for us, such as Hajj once in our lifetime, fasting in Ramadan once a year, praying in congregation at least once a week (on Friday) and praying five times a day, the times between are not meant to be void of thoughts of Allah. Here are some ways to incorporate and ensure Zikr in our everyday lives:

1- If you want or need or desire something, regardless of what it is, ask Allah for it first

Allah says in the Holy Quran, "Call on Me. I will answer your prayer, but those who are too arrogant to serve me will surely find themselves humiliated in Hell" (40:60). Taking the time to remember and ask Allah, serves not only as humbling experiences, but forces you to realize that Allah wants us to remember Him, to ask of Him, and put our trust in Him.

Whether it is in times of distress or in times of joy, creating a habit of sincere supplication toward Allah increases your Zikr. According to Abu Huraira, "The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, reported that, whoever wants Allah to answer his prayers during difficult times, should supplicate to Him more and more in times of ease."

2. Be aware of your words

It becomes second nature for many Muslims to say "Assalam Alaikum" (Peace and blessings be upon you) when they meet a fellow Muslim, or to say Alhumdu lillah (all thanks be to Allah) without ever really thinking about what it means. While it is good to say these words, if we put our hearts into them, we will be humbling ourselves and performing Zikr at the same time.

So use words like InshaAllah (God willing), MashaAllah, when you are praising something and Bismillah (in the name of God) before you begin anything. Being aware of Allah at all times will help keep you from doing something unIslamic.

Abu Huraira reported that the Prophet said, "Renew your faith." "How can we renew our faith?" they asked. The Prophet replied, "say 'La ilaha ill-Allah' (there is none worthy of worship except Allah)". Jabir reported that the Prophet said, "the best remembrance of Allah is to repeat La ilaha illa Allah and the best prayer is Al-humdulillah (all praise is due to Allah)".

3. Surround yourself with those who remember Allah

What we discuss when we are in congregation can also

be Zikr. Said b. Jubair said, "anyone engaged in obeying Allah is in fact engaged in the remembrance of Allah."

Some early scholars according to Fiqh us-Sunnah said, "the gatherings of Zikr are the gatherings where the lawful and the prohibited things are discussed, for instance, selling, buying, prayers, fasting, marriage, divorce, and pilgrimage."

The Prophet reportedly told ibn Umar that, "There are some angels of Allah who go about looking for such assemblies or circles of Zikr, and when they find them they surround them."

"When any group of men remember Allah, angels surround them and mercy covers them, tranquility descends upon them, and Allah mentions them to those who are with Him" (Abu Huraira and Abu Said Al Khudri).

Thus, surrounding yourself with other people remembering Allah contributes and heightens the purpose of Zikr, which is to purify ones heart and soul and to awaken the human conscience.

4. Do charity

Often we need to see how blessed we are, by helping those who are not as fortunate. Whether it is volunteering at a homeless shelter, teaching small children or visiting with the elderly, by taking time out of our lives to help others for the sake of Allah, we better ourselves.

The Holy Quran says, remembrance of Allah "is wider than Prayer: it includes silent contemplation, and active service of Allah and His Creatures. The regular Prayers and regular charity are the social acts performed through the organized community" (24:37).

By doing charity for those around us, we realize all the blessings bestowed upon us by Allah and remember Him in a more appreciative manner.

The Prophet said, "Charity is obligatory every day on every joint of a human being. If one helps a person in matters concerning his riding animal by helping him to ride it or by lifting his luggage onto it, all will be regarded as charity. A good word, and every step one takes to offer compulsory congregational prayer, is regarded as charity; and guiding somebody on the road is regarded as charity (Abu Huraira).

Keeping the importance of charity in mind and performing it for the sake of Allah, keeps Him in our thoughts and heart at all times.

Go to www.soundvision.com for the complete article

April 2011

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | |
|---|--|-----|-----------------------------|-----|---|-----------------|----|
|  April is Poetry Month! | | | | | 1 Tuition Due 1:00 PM Dismissal | 2 | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 West Valley Fire Dept. Presentation 9:30 a (PS-PK) 1:00 PM Dismissal | 9 | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Dentist Presentation 9:00 a (PS-PK) 1:00 PM Dismissal MSA Conference | 16 | |
| 17 |  | | | | | 22 Earth Day | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Poetry Party 10 AM | 28 | 29 Arbor Day 1:00 PM Dismissal | 30 | |

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West Valley City, Utah 84119

To comment, critique,
make suggestions or contribu-
tions to the newsletter, please
email:
iqra_news@yahoo.com



www.iqra-utah.org

Comment From a Former Iqra Pre-School Parent:

“...I have to go on the record and say out of every Islamic school we have seen in New York City and San Antonio, Texas we have not found a school that comes near Iqra in terms of....everything that matters! You sisters and brothers are doing a really awesome job. I cannot wait to come back...”

-Yumna B. Malik