



A Message from the Principal

We are now more than halfway through the 2010-2011 school year, and the end of our second grading term is almost upon us. By February 18, all students in grades K-5 will have their end-of-term tests, in all subjects. It is important that our students do their homework assignments every day, in order to learn all the material they need to know. Please note: If your child says they don't have any homework, for even two days in row, please check in their homework folder yourself, to make sure they're getting their work done!

Since our students will be taking the statewide CRT's near the end of May, our teachers are working hard to make sure they have covered all of the standard curriculum topics

before then, to allow ample time for review of content covered earlier this school year. We ask that all parents ensure that their students arrive at school on time, and avoid missing school days, so that all our students will have the opportunity to learn everything that is taught in their subjects. Our teachers will have very little time to individually instruct students who miss hours or days of school, and your child will be very disappointed if something is on the test that they missed learning by being absent or tardy to school.

On a different note, the working hours of Ms. Pam Rivas and myself were reduced in early December, and we are now working opposite schedules, overlapping by only one hour per day. So if you need to dis-

cuss something with me, please come to the school between 8:00 am and 1:00 pm, Monday through Thursday; and to speak to Pam, please see her between 12:00 noon and 3:00 pm. Since we are both busy with other duties, we will not be answering the phone as quickly or as often as before, so please leave a voice message the first time you call. We will plan to check voice messages at least twice during the day, and at the end of the school day, to ensure your message is received. If any parents are willing to volunteer to answer the phone and take messages from 8:00 am until 12:30 pm, your help will be greatly appreciated!

Wan R. Ismail-Ebling
Principal

Muslim Educators Training Session

On Saturday, Jan 29, 2011, Iqra teachers and Sunday school teachers from the various local masjid attended a Muslim Educators Training session, held at the Salt Lake Community College (Miller Campus) in Sandy, Utah.

The five-hour training was conducted by Br. Habeeb Quadri, the principal of a full-time Islamic school in Chicago. He also provides educational consultation services, and is a partner with IQRA International Educational Foundation, also based in Chicago. He currently is taking courses at the Principals' Center, of the Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

Br. Habeeb Quadri enlivened his instruction by providing memorable examples of many aspects of teaching, including multiple intelligences, lesson plans, classroom management, and student evaluation. His wealth of knowledge, and his 15 years' experience teaching in U.S. private and public schools was apparent.

In an Iqra staff meeting the following week, the Iqra teachers described the training as inspiring, empowering and resourceful, and gave examples of how they have already started to apply the principles they learned in the training. InshaAllah affordable trainings like this one will be arranged again before the beginning of our next school year, and we will be able to attend and benefit.

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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.

United in Service for Humanity and IQRA ACADEMY

PRESENT

HUMANITARIAN MONTH

*A month of charity, compassion, and dedication
to help the underserved of Salt Lake City*

JANUARY 28TH - March 4TH

We organizing a donation drive to collect items most needed at
homeless shelters and other facilities from January 28 to February 25.

On Friday, March 4th at 6 PM, we will prepare and serve dinner at
The Road Home.

IMPORTANT DATES

JAN. 28 - FEB. 25— ITEM DRIVE

***FEB 26— HELP SORT THROUGH DONATED ITEMS AND
PREPARE GIFTS FOR DISTRIBUTION***

MARCH 4—SERVE DINNER AT The Road Home AT 6 PM

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1) Drop off items at Masjids Khadeeja, Noor, al-Huda, as well as the Bosnian and Utah Islamic Centers and at IQRA Academy

2) DONATE \$25 TO CLOTHE AN UNDERSERVED CHILD. You can give the donations to Sisters Wagma Mohmand and Shazia Faizi, and Brothers Syed Nabi and Habib Sarfraz or any IQRA ACADEMY STAFF MEMBER

3) Sign up to prepare food for the homeless dinner

Email: ushslc@gmail.com OR speak directly with Sisters Shazia and Wagma

4) Support your children with their Sunday School competitions to raise items for the donation drive

***TOP NEEDS FOR THE DONATION DRIVE:** pillows, blankets (all sizes), bath size towels, hats (all sizes),gloves (all sizes), socks (all sizes). For a complete list, please visit our website at or look for a list at the donation drop off locations.

(VISIT [HTTP://USHSLC.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://ushslc.blogspot.com) FOR UPDATES AND DETAILS CONCERNING THE ABOVE DATES)

An Evening with Imam Siraj Wahaj Recap

On Saturday, January 22, over 250 people gathered at the Sheraton Hotel downtown to listen to Imam Siraj Wahaj from New York speak about the value of Islamic education and what it means to be a Muslim in America.



The sold-out event featured a speech by Iqra Board member Dr. Syed Nabi and a 15 minute video of Iqra Academy, before Imam Siraj Wahaj took the stage. A few minutes were dedicated to urging people to donate generously to the school, but the majority of the night was the audience simply being inspired by a renown speaker to be better Muslims by being better people and better to each other.



The Master of Ceremonies was Zuhair Alam and the lobby hosted a small bazaar and silent auction to raise funds for Iqra Academy. By the turn out and general reaction of the guests, inshaAllah more prominent scholars can be brought to the Salt Lake Valley for us all to benefit from.



DOORPRIZE WINNERS

Congratulations

Sr. Taiyaba Khan
(Ticket #696214)

&

Br. Amin Motiwala
(Ticket #696151)

Each won a \$50 American Express Gift Card



CLASS UPDATES: EARLY ELEMENTARY

Pre-School & Pre-K

In Pre-School, things are going along smoothly, alhumdulillah. We are on the letter S, the color black, and shape oval. We are getting along so well and have a pretty set routine that even the two new students are learning the rules fast.

Pre-K is finishing up our dinosaur theme and our next theme will be community helpers. The students are coming along well with their letters and numbers. They are so eager to figure out what letter every word starts with, that they repeatedly sound it out, mashaAllah.

Sr. Missy Abouhassan
Pre-School and Pre-K Teacher

Early Arabic & Islamic Studies

Every week our Pre-Schoolers are learning a new letter, number, color, and shape in Arabic. They are reviewing everything we learned so far, too. These little ones love P.E., art, and nasheeds. All these subjects are related to the Islamic studies taught and alhumdulillah we are having a fun time!

Pre-K mashaAllah, has memorized six suwar and one hadeeth. Now they are on surat Al-Nasr. My little angels love stories from Al-Quran. We have started reading about the Prophets of Allah (swt). We are also re-viewing the numbers, colors, letters, and shapes in Arabic.

Alhamdulillah, Kindergarten has memorized nine suwar and eight hadeeth. We are currently working on surat Al-Fil and the harakah (fatha). We have an Arabic and Islamic Studies test coming up that will cover everything learned so far, inshaAllah, parents will help their students prepare for the test.

May Allah swt reward all the parents for helping their children as they are an amannah in our hands. Ameen.

Sr. Soltana Hamidat
Early Elementary Arabic and Islamic Studies Teacher

Kindergarten

We have finished our reading theme *Let's Count* and are currently working with our reading theme of *Sunshine and Raindrops*. Our next theme will be *Wheels Go Around* where we will enjoy stories about various types of transportation. Students will learn to write and recognize the letters *d* and *z* and identify the sounds they represent.

In Math Kindergarteners have completed two topics, time and money. Now we are working on exploring larger numbers.

In Science we began a unit about weather. In this unit we are discussing and doing activities to learn about what makes the weather, how we can keep track of the weather and what are the tools to measure weather.

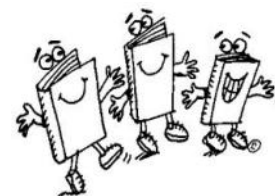
As February is known as Black History Month, we are going to discuss and do activities related to this topic so that the kids learn about the history of America.

Sr. Aisha Attique
Kindergarten Teacher

Reading Resource

Alhumdulillah, all Iqra students have ended 2010 reading on or above grade level. Thus, all of my students that I began the year with, are back into their regular classes for reading. However, with the results of the Iowa State Tests in, I am now helping students in comprehension.

Teaching comprehension includes vocabulary, listening, direct and inferred comprehension. Each student reads a passage or listens to a passage and answers questions. All vocabulary words that they are not familiar with are compiled into a list and given to their homeroom teacher. They are then taught as spelling and vocabulary words for the following week.



To help your child at home, have them read aloud to you or to their siblings and then discuss what they are reading. You can also have them listen to stories on tapes or CD while in the car and then discuss what is going on in the story. InshaAllah, with all of our efforts, our students will do well on their CRTs this spring.

Lauri Patel
Resource Teacher



Thank You to
XMISSION

for providing Iqra Academy
with FREE internet access.

CLASS UPDATES: ELEMENTARY

1st Grade



First grade has been around the world and back!

Last month we learned about the continents, but this month we actually experienced the countries inside those continents.

First grade just had our very first "Around the World Cultural Day." This was a great learning experience, not only for the students, but for me as well. We learned about, Ukraine, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Chile and Somalia. We experienced handicrafts, food, and exciting facts about these countries.

We also had an amazing Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The students prepared a song, "O Dr. King" to present at our MLK Jr. Assembly.



This month we are starting our annual 500 page challenge read-a-thon. So grab a good book and start reading!

Sr. Hanifa Dhedhy
First Grade Teacher

3rd Grade



In Math, the Third graders were introduced to geometry. We identified 2-dimensional (2-D) and 3-dimensional (3-D) shapes and the geometric figures that could be built from them using straws and pipe cleaners. The students also experienced systematic skills development through

practicing the multiples of 10, 100, and 1,000. Using pattern-block shapes, we shared our solution strategies with our peers.



In Science, we classified living and nonliving things in an environment. A few experiments were conducted and we particularly enjoyed the one that involved investigating yeast and magnifying glasses.



In Social Studies, we studied Native Americans and learned how indigenous cultures change over time. The activities helped us learn about maps and charts. We located the regions of the North American tribes and then looked for their similarities and differences.

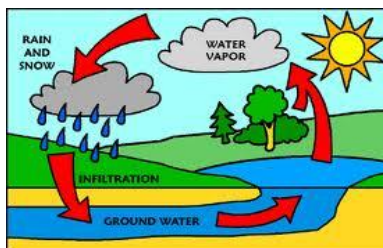
Sr. Murni Mohamed
Third Grade Teacher

4th Grade

What can all living things do without water? Water is the main source of life. Without it, no living things can survive. We have been studying about "The Water Cycle," There is water in the air, under the ground, and on Earth's surface. There are three stages of the water cycle. There's evaporation, precipitation, and condensation. Each cycle plays an important part in the water cycle. Students have studied these three vocabulary words.

Evaporation: to change from liquid into water vapor.
Condensation: water vapor turns into tiny water drops.
Precipitation: water that falls to the earth from the atmosphere.

Fia Bartley
Fourth Grade Teacher



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!



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

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: Sr. Farkhanda Shahab



Sr. Farkhanda Shahab is the Fourth and Fifth grade Math teacher at Iqra Academy. She has a Master's Degree in Statistics and a Bachelor's in Mathematics, and enjoys "helping kids overcome their fear of math."

This is Sr. Farkhanda's first year on Iqra's staff. Since 2004, however, she has been a volunteer and for the 2006-2007 school year she voluntarily taught Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth grade math.

In the last seven years she has learned, "That each student needs a different approach, but in essence every one does want to learn this subject once they break their fear barrier," she said, "and that can be challenging sometimes."

Her goals for the year are to cover the entire curriculum before April so that there is ample time to review and prepare for the Criterion Referenced Test (CRT), a standardized test given to Utah students.

In addition to teaching Math, Sr. Farkhanda is also a mother of three. "My oldest is an Iqra alumni and he is doing very well in his public school. He developed a solid foundation at Iqra," she said. "My two other kids are currently enrolled at Iqra. I pray that Iqra adds higher grade levels in the next school year."

Sr. Farkhanda hopes that one day Iqra will become a high school for the Muslim community "because as Muslims, we have some needs that may not be accommodated in schools other than Iqra."

She would also like to see Iqra "be better at community outreach and staying consistent in that effort," she said.

May Allah (swt) reward Sr. Farkhanda for all she does to help the students at Iqra, ameen.

Sr. Farkhanda's Basbousa Recipe (Semolina Cake with Syrup)

Cake Ingredients:

- 2 cups semolina
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 stick butter, softened
- 1 cup yogurt
- 1 1/2 teaspoon vanilla or cinnamon powder
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 2 eggs
- Blanched split almonds

Syrup Ingredients:

- 2 1/4 cups sugar
- 1 1/2 cups water
- Juice from 1 lemon (or 2 tablespoons orange juice)
- 1 teaspoon honey (optional)

Prepare syrup first. Dissolve sugar in water in a medium saucepan. Add lemon juice and bring to a boil. Once the syrup begins to boil, add in honey. Reduce heat and allow to slowly boil for about 8-10 minutes. Remove from heat and set aside.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease and flour a 9x12 baking dish.

Cream together butter and sugar in a mixing bowl. Add eggs, and vanilla or cinnamon powder.

In a separate bowl, combine semolina, baking powder. Slowly add to butter and egg mixture. Stir in yogurt.

Pour mixture into baking dish and smooth with spoon.

Take a butter knife and make diagonal lines from left to right and complete to make diamond shapes. Place an almond in the center of each diamond. Bake for 25 minutes.

Remove cake from oven and pour syrup over cake until no more can be absorbed. Allow to cool for 20 minutes.



Don't forget— kids fall quickly behind when they are not on time!



A student who is 10 minutes late daily to school will miss 30 hours of instruction a year!

(School starts at 8:25)

February 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 100 Days of School	3	4 1:00 PM Dismissal	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 1:00 PM Dismissal	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 1:00 PM Dismissal	19
20	21 Presidents' Day NO SCHOOL	22	23	24	25 1:00 PM Dismissal	26 Help Sort Charity Items for Distribution
27	28	February is Black History Month, head to your local library and find a book about the struggles early African American's faced and the triumphs they achieved in making America a better country for all!				



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