



THE YEAR AT A
GLANCE...



ISLAMIC ACADEMY OF HUNTSVILLE
FAITH - ACADEMICS - EXCELLENCE
2015-2016

IAH Newsletter

Faith. Academics. Excellence.



Principal's Corner

Dr. Hamsa
Mahafza



As the first semester of the academic year comes to an end, I would like to state that it has been a true pleasure getting to know IAH parents, students, and supporters of this outstanding community-based school. This semester has been both busy and enlightening in many ways. I would like to say that it has been a pleasure engaging such a wonderful and capable faculty. It is our mission to effectively work together to reach the goals and objectives of our school. We, as the IAH team, recognize the important contributions that parents make toward their children's success in school. No doubt, school and

home can effectively work together to build knowledge, reinforce values, and develop a strong sense of partnership. Even though, the first semester has been a success, we all still have a lot to accomplish and finish. It is not secret to any of you that the school has limited resources. Admittedly, without the community's generous donations and volunteer work of many of you we could not have accomplished what we have done so far. Your continued support, financially and physically, will only ensure more success and will facilitate better school and academic environment for our students and teachers; Jazakum-Allah Khairan. To this end, the school and the students need your help in promoting our new "Sponsor-A-Student at IAH" program. This program is one of our sincere efforts to support our students in their education. In closure, I would like to take a moment to thank our Secretary Education, Dr. Mohammed Amjad, for his devotion and guidance, and also to congratulate the new IAH Board members and extend a welcoming hand to them so that we all can work together for the betterment of the IAH School. Lastly, I wish you ALL a very happy and relaxing Winter Break, inshAllah.

Open House

IAH held an “Open House BBQ” on August 25, 2015. Parents were given the opportunity to communicate with the principal and our wonderful IAH staff members, and view their child’s classrooms. Some members of IAH staff were assigned stations during our Open House event where they presented information regarding IAH Nutrition plan, SAT scores, and “Hifz through Quran” program. Our school was beautifully decorated for this event by our Art teacher Ms. Setareh. This first IAH event of the year would be considered a success by all who attended.



AROUND THE OPEN HOUSE



Students, parents, and teachers all enjoying the open house, the BBQ and weather.

Join The PTA!

Hats off to our hardworking and productive IAH PTA members. Their dedication is hard to describe in just few words. As you may already know, research shows students do

better when their families are involved at home and at school. We look forward for more PTA contributions next semester.



HAJJ PROGRAM



IAH celebrated Hajj by presenting a program for our community (September 18th, 2015). Imam Ragab was the coordinator for the organization of this event. Ms. Afzia Muhammed, Ms. Maisoun Zaza, Ms. Nada Rashi, and Ms. Fatima Imam work hard to prepare their students for this wonderful event. Parents and friends were entertained during this event by our brilliant students. While preparing for this event our students learned about the importance

of the fifth and final pillar of Islam. InshaAllah, our students will be well prepared to make their own trip to the Holy city of Mecca.



Eid Breakfast With the Principal!

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On Tuesday, September 29th we enjoyed breakfast with the students, teachers, parents and principal in celebration of Eid. This was thrown together by the PTA who did a wonderful job. Following the breakfast the parents and principal got together to discuss important topics and come up with ways to make IAH even better.



Lyon's Family Farm

IAH went to Lyon Family farm during the month of October. Ms. Reynolds was the coordinator for our school wide field trip. After a guided tour of the farm animal section the students were able to select their own pumpkins after a short hayride. Our day was filled with lots of fun activities. The Giant Pillow Bounce was a crowd favorite of our students. Some of our students were even brave enough to try the Corn Maze! After a long day of activities the lower grades were treated to a class about the many varieties of pumpkins found at Lyon Farm. This was an educational and fun trip that will be remembered for years to come by our students.



T-SHIRT CONTEST WINNER

Maryam Rashid

3rd Grade

Ms Eva Gimma

Congratulations to our winner! She captured our motto of FAITH-ACADEMICS-EXCELLENCE brilliantly. Everyone who participated did such a great job. We'd like to send a shout-out to our judges who had to make the difficult decision and Ms. Setareh, our Art Teacher!



Middle School Mentos Project



Lyon's Family Farm



At the Veterans Memorial

Scholastic Book Fair

October 19th-23rd we hosted the annual Scholastic Book Fair. Kids and parents were able to come by and browse through a vast selection of books. It is a great opportunity to get kids excited about reading. This year we had an even better turn out than last thanks to our coordinator Ms. Karla Little!



Scripps National Spelling Bee!

Our school conducted the annual Spelling Bee this past November. The National Spelling Bee is designed to improve spelling, increase vocabularies, and develop correct usage of English in the daily lives of students. IAH students from 3rd through 8th were eligible to participate in this competition. Our wonderful teacher Ms. Kasey Rodriguez, was our Spelling Bee Coordinator this year. Our Spelling Bee was very exciting and lasted for several rounds of competition. MashaAllah, Aleena Bodla (4th grade) was the winner and Mishkot Gozarian (8th grade) was our runner-up. Aleena will go on to represent IAH in the regional competition, inshaAllah.



*Our Winner
Aleena Bodla!*

*Aleena and
Mishkot*

*Our awesome
judges!*

National Geography Bee

The National Geography Bee was held this Thursday, December 10th. Our coordinator was Ms. Edith Frye. It is an annual competition for 4th-8th graders to test their geographic knowledge and inspire curiosity about the world. Congratulations to our winner, Mishkot Golzarian who advances on! We are so proud of all who participated in this challenging event and the teachers that organized it!



1

FIRST PLACE

Mishkot Golzarian

2

SECOND PLACE

Haneen Zeinelabdin

3

THIRD PLACE

Yusef Alzaybek



Mishkot Golzarian



Haneen Zeinelabdin



Yusef Alzabek



FROM THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Dear Parents, Teachers, and Students,

IAH is the most important project of the Muslim Community of North Alabama; IAH provides quality education in an Islamic environment. I encourage all Muslim families with children of elementary & middle school age to take an advantage of IAH & help educate them in Islamic principles & values. On behalf of HIC I welcome the new IAH-Board & pledge full support for the success of IAH.

Dr. Muhammad Amjad
Secretary of Education
Islamic Academy of Huntsville

Upcoming Events to look out for!:



NEWSLETTER TEAM

Dr. Hamsa Mahafza, Principal
Ms. Madiha Nasir, IAH Volunteer
Ms. Marsha Darby, 4th Grade Teacher

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IAH NEWSLETTER

Winter Newsletter

Thanks for taking the time to read our Newsletter! If you have any questions, comments or concerns please email us at:
principal@islamicacademyofhuntsville.org



IAH NEWSLETTER

Principal's Corner by Dr. Hamsa Mahafza

Al Salam Alykum,

It is hard to believe that the school year has come to an end! I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our students for their achievements, and also to share some highlights of the past academic year and some of our plans for next year, *inshaAllah*. Despite some of the challenges we faced as a small community-based school, it has been a year filled with positive change, growth, and significant accomplishments. No doubt, the successful experiences and projects that materialized at our school this year could not have occurred without a great deal of commitment and collaboration from our staff, students, and parents. Throughout the year, our students have been involved in numerous activities and learning experiences that brilliantly represented our school both at local and state levels.

As a team, the IAH staff worked diligently together to meet the needs of our students; they sacrificed so much time and put forward so much effort to ensure their success. A HUGE “Thank You” goes out to all teachers for their hard work and dedication, and to our students and their parents for making IAH such a great school. We strongly believe that IAH parents are the backbone of our school, and we are truly grateful for their continued support and constructive feedback. Special thanks also go to the IAH PTA, IAH Board, HIC, IAH Volunteers, and Every Member of our community for their sincere efforts and all they have done and continue to do to advance and improve our school.

Serving our students is our number one priority. We strive to provide them with the best programs and educational services possible. This past year, we developed a new project called “IAH Character Building,” that integrates the Islamic principles into students’ daily practices and learning. We also implemented the ACT Aspire Assessment along with Common Core State Standards in order to help our students acquire the skills they will need for future success. We are planning to start a new Arabic language program (ICO) next year; this program will offer the latest methods of foreign language instruction to our students. We also plan to initiate two new programs: the IAH Enrichment Program and IAH Extended Day Program.

Striving for excellence in education within an Islamic environment is our ultimate goal. Working together as a team is a crucial step towards reaching this goal. It was such a pleasure serving you as the IAH Principal this academic year. I wish you all a wonderful, peaceful, and relaxing summer.





Science Fair 2016

Our students were actively involved in researching and creating innovative science projects and all were impressed by their outstanding work. A BIG thank you goes to our wonderful teachers for their hard work in preparing our students for this meaningful event, and to the judges who took the time to evaluate the students' projects. Special thank you goes to Mrs. Stephanie League, our Science Fair coordinator for this year.



100th Day of School



Our students celebrated the 100th Day of School on January 22nd. They were engaged in several activities in which they presented their various skills in different subject areas and topics they have learned during one hundred days of this academic school year.



Arabic Reading Competition

During the month of February, IAH students participated in a school-wide Arabic reading competition. Our students were challenged to show their Arabic linguistic skills and creativity. On February 10th, Ms. Fatima Imam presented special awards to acknowledge the hard work of her top students.



Fire Safety Events

On February, IAH hosted two major Fire Safety Events in order to provide the students necessary skills required to deal with all kinds of fire emergencies. Members of the Huntsville Fire & Rescue visited our school and presented a brief yet excellent Fire Drill Safety Training session to the students and staff. Students had the opportunity to meet with firefighters, ask questions, and inspect a fire truck.



Ice Cream Party for Quran Class

The entire school had an amazing Ice-Cream Party on February 16, 2016. This party was hosted by Imam Ragab, our Quran teacher, to celebrate the IAH students' accomplishments for memorizing the assigned Qur'an recitation parts (Juzu'a TabarK and Juzu'a Amma- 29 and 30) before their set deadline. There were many students who reached this deadline, *mashaAllah*, and we are extremely proud of them.



African American Wax Museum Event

The second and third graders of IAH hosted their own African-American Wax Museum Event. Each student came to school dressed as famous African-American. This event was held on February 25th in honor of Black History month. Parents were invited and were fascinated by the student presentations. A big "Thank You!" goes to Ms. Edith Frye and Ms. Eva Gimmi who excellently coordinated this event.

**Let's Pretend Hospital at UAH**

IAH's first graders were able to participate in UAH's Let's Pretend Hospital on March 30, 2016. Students were able to visit the pretend emergency room, X-ray/laboratory, and safety room. Also, our students were able to tour two ambulances. It was a GREAT experience for our first graders. Many thanks to Ms. Kasey Rodriguez, our first grade teacher, for coordinating this fun and educational field trip.



Pajama Day - Read Across America Day

Our IAH students were finally able to do what they have always wanted to do; they came to school in pajamas and read books! Some of our middle school students came dressed as their favorite superhero and visited other classrooms to read books to the younger students. This was an extraordinary educational and fun-packed day for both our students and their teachers; they all shared a common cause to promote developing good reading habits and skills.



Second graders MAKING BUTTER



IAH Activities





This year's Culture Fair was a huge hit! On March 25, students, parents, and staff came together to celebrate the diverse and wonderful cultures present within our school. The theme was "Traveling through Different Cultures." Students researched and prepared great projects from different countries which were displayed in several booths. Each booth displayed various cultural elements, such as artifacts, clothing, language, and foods. Some students dressed in authentic cultural customs while the parents brought in delicious food to sample from the different countries. During this event, students were able to visit and travel between these countries with their make-believe passports. Why go around the world in 80 days when you can do it in one!



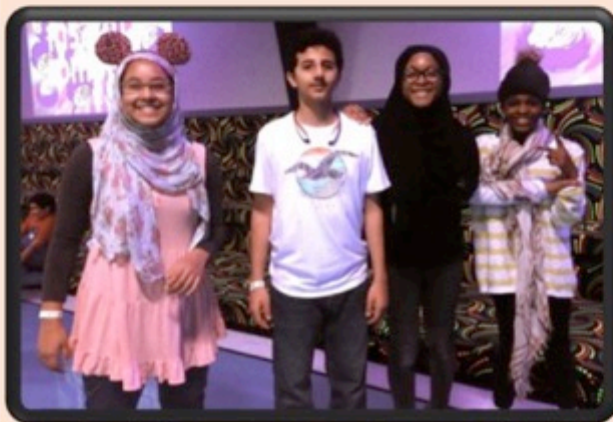
Cook's Natural Science Museum

The kindergarten, first, and second graders visited Cook's Natural Science Museum in Decatur, Alabama on April 12, where they were able to see and learn about over 50 species of insects, animals, and water life forms! Our students and their teachers were extremely excited about this interesting adventure.



Bridge Street and Insanity Skating

Middle school teachers, Ms. League and Ms. Reynolds, took the 7th and 8th grade students to Bridge Street for lunch and some fun shopping, and then they took them roller skating at the Insanity Complex. This field trip tied in with their math class; students had been studying sales tax, discounts, mark ups, and budgets. It allowed students to see how these things work in a real world scenario and how math is used in our everyday lives.



ACTE State Technology Fair 2016

Hats off and a huge “hip hip hooray” to our students for their great accomplishments in the ACTE State Technology Fair competition, which was held on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at the Montgomery Performing Arts Center. We are very proud of our students and thrilled about the results they scored. We had about 20 winners in this competition who represented our Islamic school brilliantly, *alhamdulillah*! A profound "Thank You" goes to our wonderful teachers, especially our Middle School teacher, Ms. Sharon Reynolds for directing this event.





Field Trip to Helen Keller's Childhood Home

The 4th graders and their teacher, Ms. Marsha Darby, were able to visit Helen Keller's childhood home in Tuscumbia, Alabama. Before their field trip, each student read a book about Ms. Keller so they would have a greater appreciation and understanding of Keller's life and achievements. During this trip, the students were given a tour of Helen's home and were able to explore the grounds.



Cathedral Caverns State Park



Middle School students and their teachers went on a great adventure to the Cathedral Caverns. They went on a guided tour and saw bats and learned a great deal about the science behind the caves. The students loved the outdoor picnic area and were able to visit the gift shop. Everyone had a blast including the teachers.

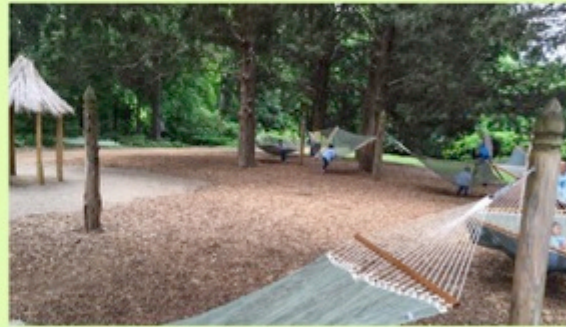
Earth Day 2016

The entire school celebrated Earth, our beloved home planet, on April 22 with Earth Day activities.



Botanical Gardens

Our pre-K, kindergarten, first, and third graders took a field trip to Botanical Gardens on May 10, where they had a great time touring woodland, wildflower, and flower gardens! Students explored the Purdy Butterfly House, Critter Corner, and last but not least, the Dinosaur's World. We thank all parents who attended as chaperons.



Moving-Up Day

On May 18, IAH students were able to meet with their teachers of the upcoming school year. This informal “meet and greet” session was the perfect opportunity for students to view their future classrooms and ask questions about the upcoming school year. Each teacher discussed goals and expectations for their classrooms. Each child was given the supply list for their new classroom and treat bags from their future teachers.



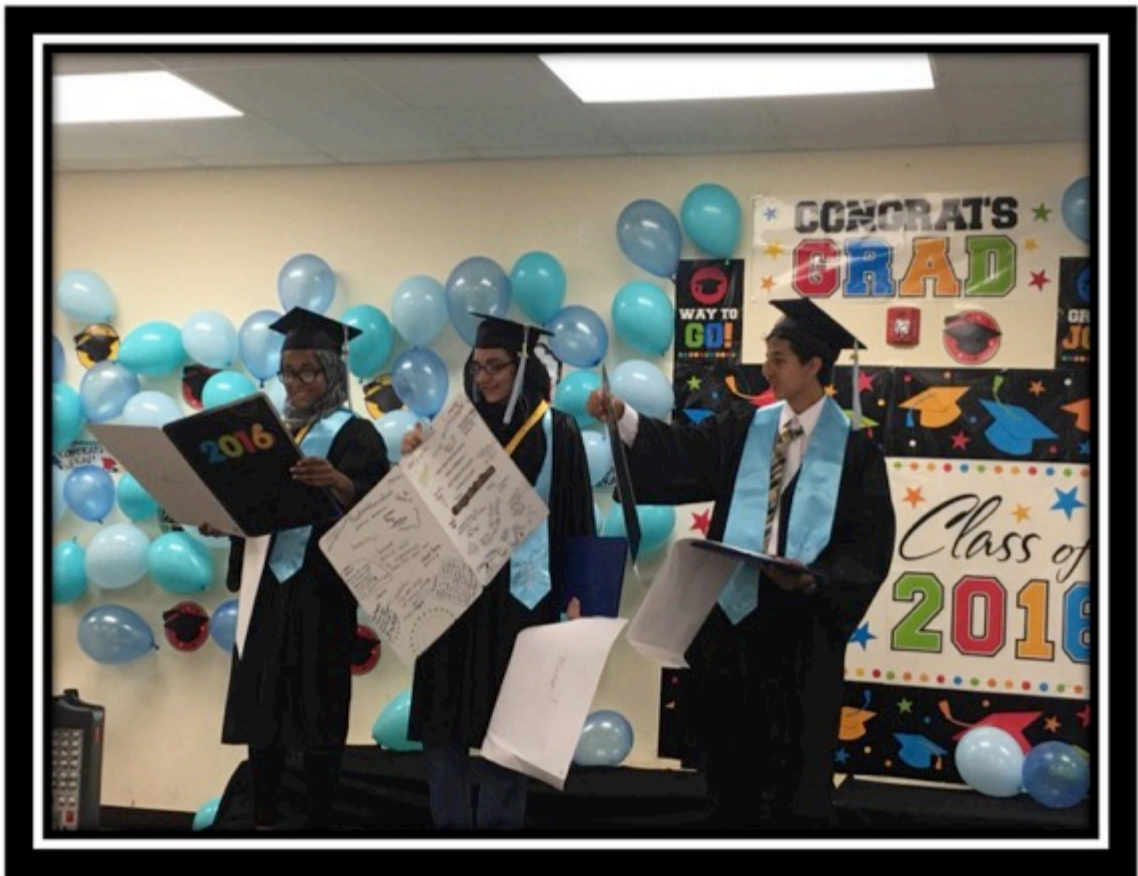
IAH Moving-Up Day Wednesday, May 18, 2016



Awards Ceremony - Graduation Day

No doubt, this was our biggest day of the year. Our Kindergarten and Eighth grade students graduated on May 20th. The entire IAH community was invited to attend our graduation and awards ceremony. We celebrated the success and accomplishments of our wonderful students. We would like to wish all our students success and *baraka* in their future endeavors.





Field Day - IAH Carnival 2016

Our annual Field Day was held on May 23rd. This was a fun filled day with many outdoor activities. The competition was stiff with both teams exhibiting good sportsmanship during the day. This event was successful in bringing the entire IAH community together for a day full of fun and food. The IAH lemonade stand and henna booth were the perfect additions to the students' favorite event of the year. Field Day was a fun summer kick-off for our IAH students and staff.



Wishing you a wonderful Summer Break!



IAH Newsletter Team
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 Ms. Marsha Darby, IAH 4th grade Teacher
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