

April 2017 Newsletter

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



“Build a Better World”

This year, the 2017 summer reading program theme is “Build a Better World” and families can pick up their Summer Reading packet at any branch of HMCPL after May 30th. All children up to 5th grade may participate in a variety of activities – from animal programs, martial arts demonstrations and STEAM-based learning experiences, the library has something for kids of all ages!

Why Do Libraries Host Summer Reading Programs?

Studies show that for reading success to happen, access to books is critical. The public library is an excellent free resource for families to have access to books of a wide range of interests and reading levels, as well as librarians to guide children and families in selecting great books. Reading just 4 to 6 books over the summer has the potential to prevent a decline in reading achievement scores from the spring to the fall, so even small steps are very beneficial. Modeling reading behavior is especially important, too. Children and teens tend to read more when adults in their lives encourage them to read, and also when they see those adults reading often themselves. Bonus: It’s good for us, too!

Library fun schedule:

<https://hmcpl.org/sites/default/files/Kids%20Newsletter%202017.pdf>

<https://www.rocketcitymom.com/summer-reading-program-2017/>

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the last month of the academic year. April is gone already and May is here! In the honor of spring and to further plant good habits in our children, IAH focused on Earth Day and celebrated by planting flowers and herbs. Different classes did different activities to celebrate the day.

Students took a field trip to Early Works Museum and grades 3-5 just finished their testing week.



One of the amazing things that strike the [reader of the Qur'an](#) is its significant and multifaceted emphasis on the relationship of man to the environment. This is not merely about self, family and surroundings. It's about the whole universe—heavens and earth—and all of Allah's magnificent creation in them.

The creation of the heavens and earth is greater than the creation of mankind, but most of the people do not know. ([Ghafir](#) 40:57)

And there is no creature on [or within] the earth or bird that flies with its wings except [that they are] communities like you. We have not neglected in the Register a thing. Then unto their Lord they will be gathered. ([Al-An'am](#) 6:38)

In light of the unprecedented environmental crises we are facing today, I thought to speak to a bit of what Islam has to offer man to help him get the balance back in his life and restore his intimate and timeless relationship with creation. I call them Islam's Five Environmental Commandments:

Man is Part of the Environment

Man, literally in sum and substance, is of the environment. Thus he must feel and live in harmony with it. Both man and his environment are the creation of the God—and both are worshippers of Him—with the technical exception that man has the will to refuse to worship and obey God willingly, though he does it unwillingly from moment to moment. God Says:

The seven heavens and the earth and whatever is in them exalt Him. And there is not a thing except that it exalts [Allah] by His praise, but you do not understand their [way of] exalting. Indeed, He is ever Forbearing and Forgiving. ([Al-Israa'](#) 17:44)

<http://www.new-muslims.info/featured/what-islam-offers-the-earth/>

What Islam Offers the Earth?

Man Is Trustee of the Environment

Man has accepted God's decree of *khilafah* (vicegerency):

And when your Lord said unto the angels: Lo! I am about to place a viceroy in the earth, they said: Will you place therein one who will do harm therein and will shed blood, while we, we hymn you praise and sanctify You? He said: Surely I know that which ye know not. (Al-Baqarah 2:30)

That makes him responsible to use the environment to achieve his God-given purpose in this life, with the condition that he maintains it for future generations, which have as much right to it as their predecessors. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "People (past and future generations included) share alike in water, air, and herbage." (Abu Dawud)

Man Shall Be Fair to the Environment

Man shall be fair in leading his life in this world because God created it in a balanced state. Should he fail, unwarranted injustice will lead to creation's disruption and its inability to continue supporting man's needs for a hospitable habitation. Read and ponder the import of these verses:

The sun and the moon [move] by precise calculation, and the stars and trees prostrate. And the heaven He raised and imposed the balance. That you not transgress within the balance. And establish weight in justice and do not make deficient the balance. (Ar-Rahman 55:5-9)

Man Shall Not Spread Mischief in the Land

Man must realize that God forbids harm, big and small, to one's self and all others. The Prophet said: "There is no reason to) harm or reciprocate harm." (Ibn Majah) And Allah says:

And cause not corruption upon the earth after its reformation. And invoke Him in fear and aspiration. Indeed, the mercy of Allah is near to the doers of good. (Al-A`raf 7:56)

Man Shall Follow a Model of Moderation and Conservation

Most people do not grasp that much of the pollution comes from a culture of consumerism, whose primary effect is waste. It is unfortunate that people in the underdeveloped world, including Muslims, have embraced being consumers and wasters. The Qur'an is true in depicting this tendency of man, especially when resources become abundant. God Says:

Competition in (worldly) increase diverts you. Until you visit the graveyards. (At-Takathur 102:1-2)

Abundance does not justify wastage.



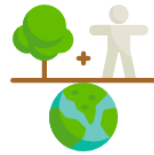
earth day



Come Celebrate with Us

**IAH Students
Participate in
Earth Day Fun!**

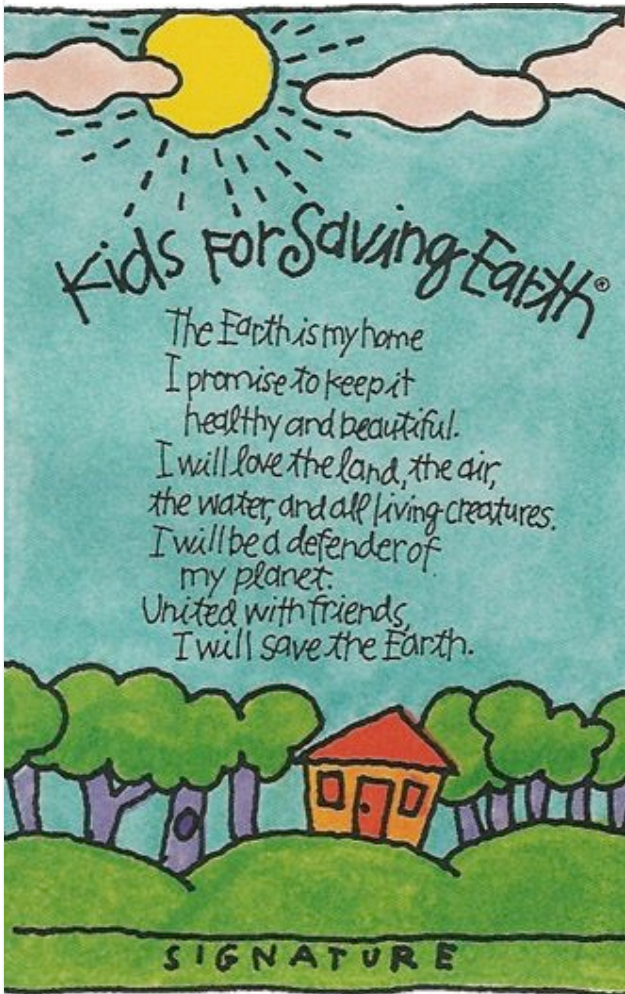




Kindergarten cleans up the Town!



Earth Day Fun at IAH



And more...

Fifth Grade celebrates "Testing week" by drinking hot mint tea, candy bars, and having an ice-cream party as a finale! We are thankful to parents and Ms. Cambell for facilitating these wonderful occasions for students to remain motivated and have something to look forward to!

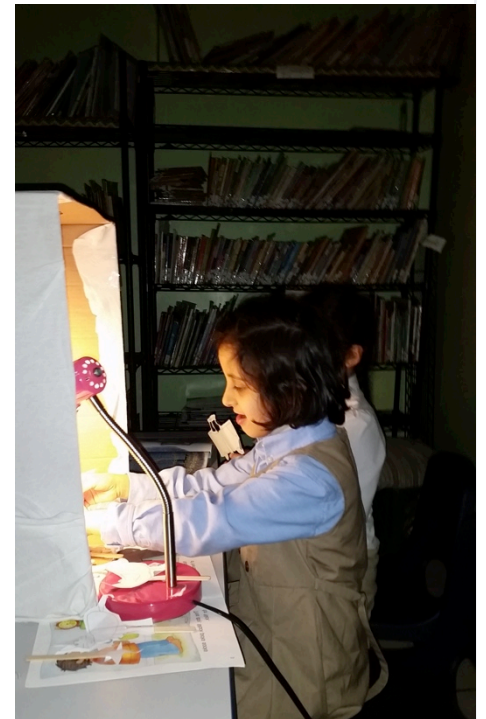
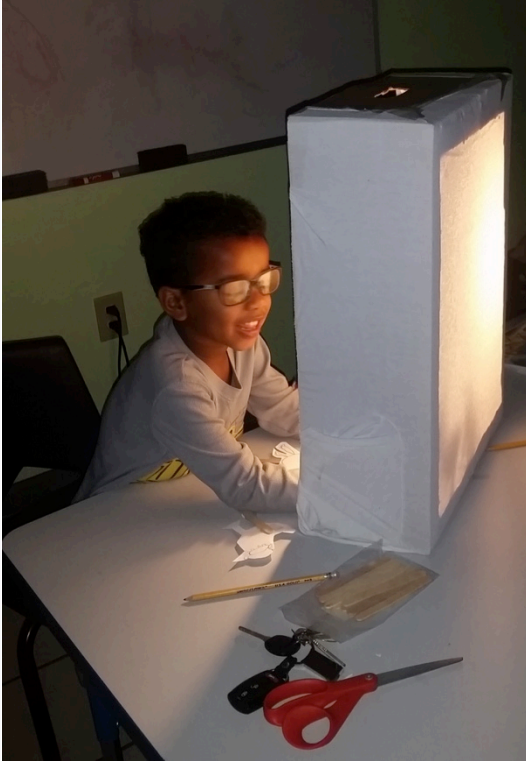


First Grade experiments with Phases of Matter!

Kindergarten Fun in Arabic Time!!



Shadow Puppet Theatre Fun at Library



Shadow play, which is also known, as **shadow puppetry** is an ancient form of storytelling and entertainment which uses flat articulated cut-out figures (shadow puppets) which are held between a source of light and a translucent screen or scrim. The cut-out shapes of the puppets sometimes include translucent color or other types of detailing. Various effects can be achieved by moving both the puppets and the light source. A talented puppeteer can make the figures appear to walk, dance, fight, nod and laugh.

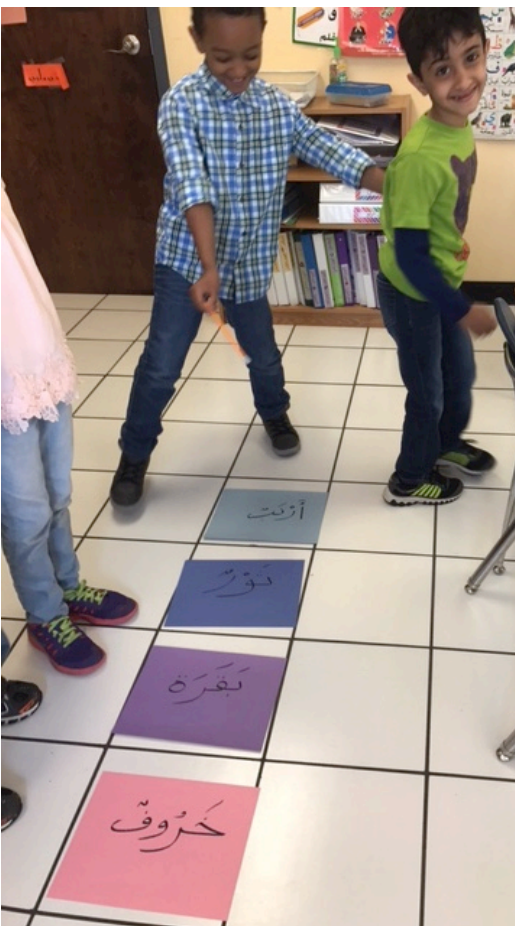
Shadow play is popular in various cultures; currently there are more than 20 countries known to have shadow show troupes. Shadow play is an old tradition and it has a long history in Southeast Asia; especially in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Cambodia. It is also considered as an ancient art in other parts of Asia such as in China, India and Nepal. It is also known in the West from Turkey, Greece to France. It is a popular form of entertainment for both children and adults in many countries around the world.



Field trip to Early Works!



More Hands on Learning Fun!



Busy Hands, Busy Brains

As students put projects together, create crafts, or use familiar materials in new ways, they're constructing meaning. "Kids learn through all their senses," says Ben Mardell, PhD, a researcher with [Project Zero](http://www.projectzero.harvard.edu) at Harvard University, "and they like to touch and manipulate things." <http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3751901>

Upcoming Events!

May 1 st	Tuition is Due
May 5	Open House / Islamic Scholars Open House
May 12	Skating Field Trip
May 17	Field Day
May 23	Graduation and Award Ceremony (half Day)
May 24	Half day (Dismissal: 12:00 pm)
May 25	Half day (Dismissal: 12:00 pm) Last Day of School for Students

IAH Field Day



Join us for a wonderful Day of Fun at IAH!

Wednesday May 17th, 9:00-12:00

IAH students will have a surprise NASA experience in sha Allah!

Bring Sunscreen and an extra set of clothing (just in case).

Activities:

Bean Bag Toss
 Ring Toss
 Washer Toss
 Ball Toss
 Sticky Toss
 Three in Row Game
 Photo Booth
 Pin the nose of the Clown
 Pin the Tail on the Donkey
 Jump Rope Competition
 Relay Egg Races
 Sack Races
 Can Toss
 Gone Fishing
 Musical Chair
 Bow and Arrow
 Henna
 Bubbles
 Balloon Animals
 Corn hole Contest

Food: \$5/Box

Halal Hotdogs/ Chips/ Cookie in Box
 Burgers /Chips/ Cookie in a box

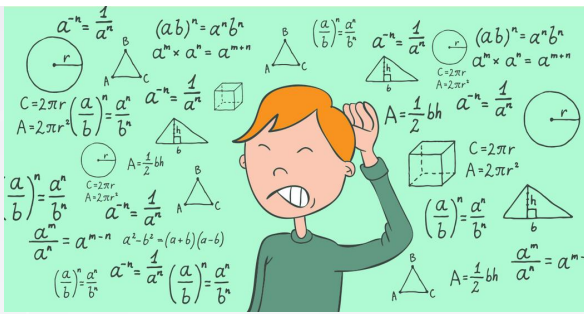
Drinks: \$1/cup

Water/ Fresh Lemonade/ Punch

Desserts:

Ice-cream \$1/Cup
 Ice-cream with toppings \$2/Cup





Your Kids Will Love Doing Math This Summer (If You Do Too)

In summertime, the living is easy, but making sure your children don't forget all the math they learned in the past school year is hard. Still, just as you work to keep them interested in reading by having books around the house,

you can keep them interested in numbers by helping them see the math that's all around them — and how they, and you, use it every day.

Here are a few tips to do just that. I cannot guarantee zero resistance, but I've seen lots of families have great results with them:

- **Deal with your own hang-ups first.**

If you have mixed feelings, or just plain dread when your child needs help with math homework, you're not alone. Even if you get anxious when someone reminds you of that long-ago algebra class, it's very important to check the negative number talk, especially in front of your kids. This is particularly important for mothers with daughters, since studies have shown girls are more likely to limit themselves in math if their same-gender parent lacks confidence in it or badmouths it. So, no more "Oh, I'm so bad at math!" or "You're never going to use any of this away from school,"

- **Make it your own journey.**

- **Keep it natural.**

You'll be surprised to find that once you've gotten out of that show-and-tell mode, you're more comfortable noticing how much math is out there, whether you're shopping, planning a trip, or trying to stay on schedule.

- **Take the pressure off.**

"In the home environment, we shouldn't focus too much on right and wrong," says Christopher Danielson, author of Common Core Math for Parents for Dummies and community college math instructor who blogs at Talking Math with Your Kids. "It's about keeping that part of the mind active." Instead of making it your goal to get to the right answer, aim to explore together, and see what you find.

- Remember that different ages have different needs, and act accordingly.

"You have to be more strategic," Danielson says. "They are willful and sensitive to being manipulated. But they love challenges and opportunities to demonstrate that they know things, especially if the parent does not." *Follow this link to find more ideas about how to sneak math in your everyday life.*

<https://www.noodle.com/articles/your-kids-will-love-doing-math-this-summer-if-you-do-too>



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