



SPRING

Spring is the best time of the year! *ربيع*



March 2017 Newsletter

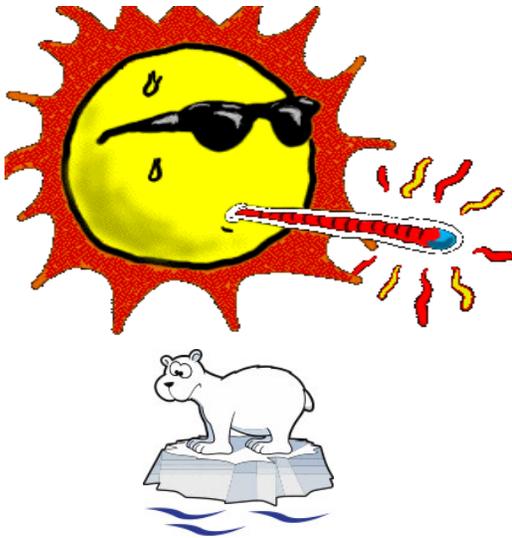
Many trees, flowers, plants and bulbs begin to grow during the spring. Animals begin to shed their winter coats for the warmer weather. Many birds lay their eggs in the spring. Many cultures celebrate the return of spring. It often signifies rebirth or rejuvenation.

In the Northern Hemisphere, Spring occurs during the months of March, April, May -- from the Vernal Equinox (March 20) to the Summer Solstice (June 21). The opposite is true for the Southern Hemisphere. The first day of spring occurs on the Vernal Equinox, and is the day when there are 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of dark. In spring, the Earth's axis is tilted toward the sun, increasing the number of daylight hours and bringing warmer weather. Severe weather most often occurs during the spring, when warm air begins to move up from the lower latitudes and cold air pushes down from the Polar Regions.

Here are some activities that the whole family can enjoy!

- ⇒ Create an outdoor garden! Create gorgeous flower artwork
- ⇒ Decorate with play dough
- ⇒ Print flowers with okra
- ⇒ Grow some beans on cotton balls and watch as the roots and shoots develop quickly! Transfer it to a pot
- ⇒ Grow cress seeds
- ⇒ Make spring murals on the windows using simple foam sheets and water
- ⇒ Paint flowerpots
- ⇒ Bake some delicious cupcakes in flowerpots and decorate with fresh flowers
- ⇒ Make a fresh batch of all natural play dough using herbs from the garden for aromatic, sensory play!





So what if Earth gets a tiny bit warmer?

Earth is still beautiful, so what is the problem? What is the fuss about climate change and global warming?

Well, after observing and making lots of measurements, using lots of NASA satellites and special instruments, scientists see some alarming changes. These changes are happening fast—much faster than these kinds of changes have happened in Earth's long past. Global air temperatures near Earth's surface rose almost one and one-half degrees Fahrenheit in the last century. Earth has warmed twice as fast in the last 50 years as in the 50 years before that. One and one-half degrees may not seem like much, but when we are talking about the average over the whole Earth, lots of things start to change.

Why is Earth getting warmer?

Here's one clue: As the temperature goes up, the amount of carbon dioxide, or CO₂, in the air goes up. And as the carbon dioxide goes up, the temperature goes up even more.

Can I help nature to help us?

Yes! We can all take notice of our environment. We can learn how to live on it without making a mess of it.

Some of the ways you can help may have to wait until you are a little older—**like choosing an energy-efficient car, installing solar panels on the roof of your house, or choosing a "green career."**

- 🍏 **You can help by growing your own vegetables and fruits.**
- 🍏 **You can help by planting a tree.** Your new plants and trees will help to remove the greenhouse gas CO₂ from the air. **If you grow some of your own food, you will also help to prevent more CO₂ from entering the air from the fossil-fuel-burning trucks, planes, and ships that transport your food to you from far away.**

How can I reduce my "carbon footprint"?

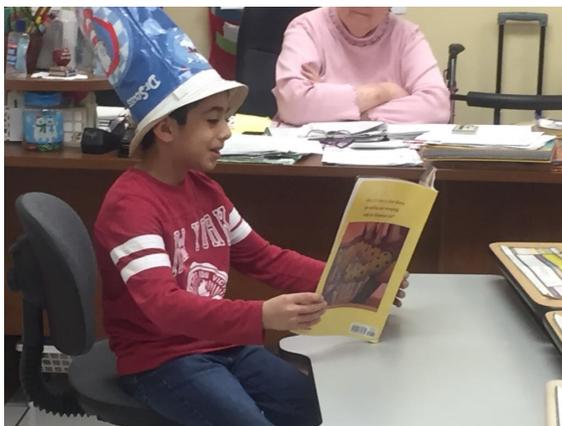
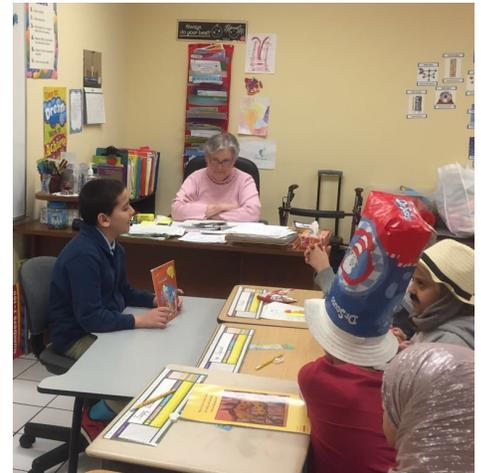
Your carbon footprint is the amount of carbon dioxide released into the air because of your own energy needs. You need transportation, electricity, food, clothing, and other goods. Your choices can **make a difference.**

- 🍏 **Swap old incandescent light bulbs for the new compact fluorescent lights (CFLs).** They use only 25% as much electricity to give the same light. They last ten times longer.
- 🍏 **Turn off lights, TVs, computers, when you do not need them.**
- 🍏 **Unplug!** Any electronic gadget you can turn on with a remote (TV, DVD player, Nintendo, Xbox) uses power even when it is "off."
- 🍏 **Appliances with a digital clock (like a coffee maker) or a power adapter (like a laptop computer) also suck power like a sneaky vampire.** Plug these kinds of things into a surge protector or power strip that has an on/off switch. Then you can shut off all the power without unplugging each gadget.
- 🍏 **Turn up the thermostat on the air conditioning when it's hot. Use fans if you're still hot.** They use much less power.
- 🍏 **Turn down the thermostat on the heating when it's cold.** Sweaters, blankets, and socks are good for you and better for the planet.
- 🍏 **Walk or ride your bike instead of taking a car everywhere.** Even a 2-mile car trip puts 2 pounds of CO₂ into the atmosphere!
- 🍏 **If you must ride, carpool.**
- 🍏 **Turn OFF your car! Stay out of the drive thru!** When you go to a fast-food place, ask your driver to park the car and let you walk inside, rather than sitting in a line of cars with the engine running and polluting.

Exciting Events!



Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss. In cities and towns across the nation, teachers, teenagers, librarians, politicians, actors, athletes, parents, and grandparents bring reading excitement to children of all ages. Governors, mayors, and other elected officials recognize the role reading plays in their communities with proclamations and floor statements. Athletes and actors issue reading challenges to young readers. And teachers and principals seem to be more than happy to dye their hair green or be duct-taped to a wall if it boosts their students' reading. Our students had a great time participating!



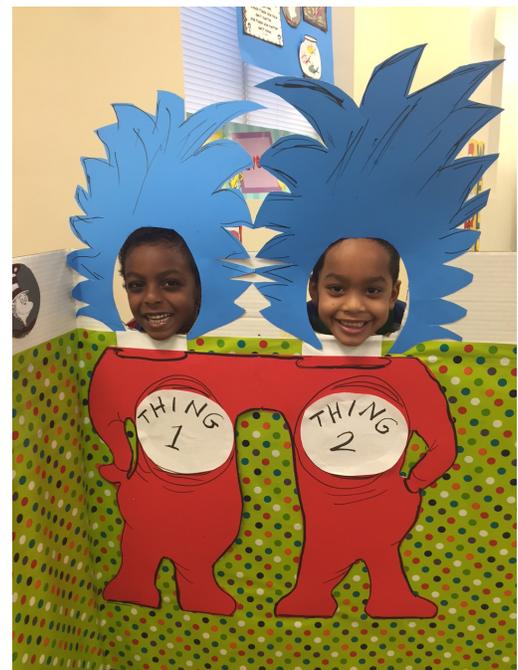
Exciting News!



Highlight of the month!

We thank and recognize our super moms and families who have supported our school tirelessly and selflessly since the beginning of the year!

Providing delicious "Breakfast for Lunch" for the ENTIRE SCHOOL during Read Across America was not an easy task, but was done so gracefully that we (staff and students) all enjoyed the event so much! Supporting us with donations to strengthen security of school was a grave task and I am pleased to see the level of our parents' devotion toward their children's school. We are truly thankful to have you and your families! We pray for much blessings from Allah (swt)!



Exciting Events!



Third grade students and Ms. Cook took a journey not available to all students! They visited **Redstone Arsenal** to learn about the **International Space Station** as well as the new Mars' mission. They met an engineer that explained how they test parts of the rockets. They visited the new test platform where they test the fuel tank for the Mars' Mission. They also visited the Laboratory Training Complex or LTC. The LTC is one of the areas they use to train the flight controllers. International Space Station Payloads Control Area was next. This is where flight controllers direct the astronauts on how to complete their research in space. The students were given quick overview of what the team does and they were able to see live video of the astronauts on orbit performing some of their daily tasks.



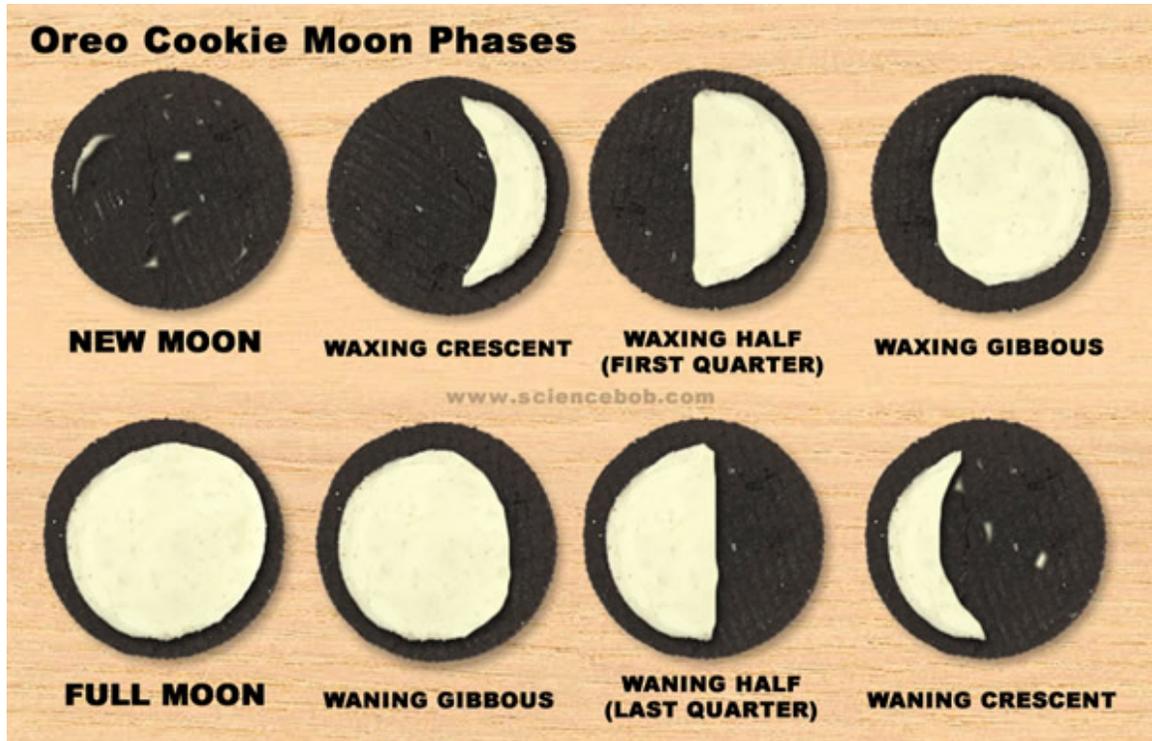
Exciting Events!



Fifth graders visited **WHNT/Channel 19, Huntsville Times**, and met **WLRH (Public Radio)** announcer Judy Watters, as she hosted the morning classical music program at the radio station in the campus of UAH. **WLRH (89.3 FM, "89.3 FM Public Radio")** is a National Public Radio-affiliated radio station in Huntsville, Alabama. It primarily features news and classical music programming on weekdays and news, humor, and other musical genres on weekends. WLRH is the state's oldest public radio station. At The Huntsville Times, news editor Shelly Haskins led the tour and discussion of responsible journalism. At the TV station, meteorologist Gabrielle Deabler explained TV news-gathering and reporting and sat with the class as they witnessed the noon broadcast inside the studio!



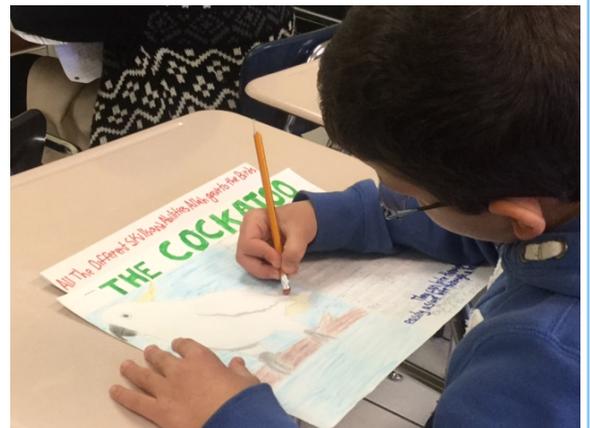
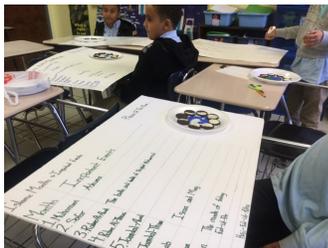
Exciting Events!



A Delicious Lesson Learned!

Moon plays a very important role in the lives of Muslims since we follow a lunar calendar - a calendar based on lunar cycles. A year of the lunar calendar is approximately ten days shorter than the Gregorian calendar or the 'normal' calendar beginning from January and ending with December. The Hijrah calendar also has twelve months, beginning from *Muharram* and ending at *Dhul Hijjah*. Each month of the *Hijrah* lunar calendar begins with the sighting of a new moon. The first day of the lunar month is the day after a new crescent is sighted, and the length of each lunar calendar month can be 29 or 30 days. Seven months in a lunar calendar year are of 30 days each and five months of 29 days each, with no fixed pattern. Some times two consecutive months can be of either 29 or 30 days.

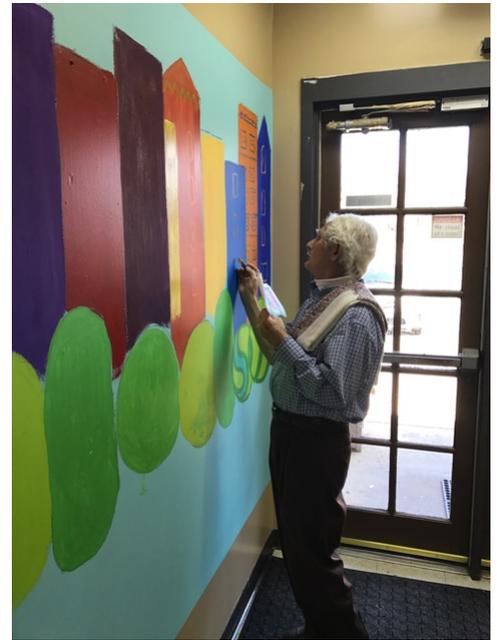
Each class, with guidance of their Islamic Studies teacher *Ms. Afzia*, had a hands-on activity and project that made learning easy and unforgettable!



What's new?

IAH brings all members of community together...

IAH is in the process of renewing its looks and feel altogether! Knowing how important community projects are for children and youth and involvement of their parents, as well as their respected community members, we have asked parents and community members to pick up a paintbrush and participate in our community based project! Everyone is falling in love with the idea, the process, and leaves the building smiling and feeling great! As a community member mentioned " I can now say I have painted the Masjid!" Students paint during their art class time as well. If you have not yet tried this, please do so at your convenience. No experience required!!



Why Giving Back Matters?

Learning to be Responsible

In early years, we lay the foundation for responsible citizenship. Children learn kindness, respect, and empathy—internal strengths that connect them to others. You can't just *talk* about these feelings and expect understanding; kids need to *experience* them. But these ideas also need to be reinforced at home.

Character education in the early years helps build strengths like honesty, responsibility, fairness, and compassion -- internal assets that lead to happiness and well-being. These are the kinds of human qualities that foster *responsible citizens*, children who grow up to donate to food drives, recycle their trash, or help during a crisis.

Learning to Improve the Community

In order for communities to grow and thrive, people must step up and take leadership roles. Many children as young as ten, have the capacity to inspire and mobilize others. Consider the story of Eden Eskaros, who on a visit to Mexico noticed children were not wearing shoes. When she returned home, this ten-year-old enlisted the aid of her community and sent over 1,000 pairs of shoes to her new friends south of the border. When children learn to improve their communities, they develop the capacity to organize others. They acquire problem solving, planning, time management, and marketing skills. They learn about community agencies and how local governments work. Experiences that involve teamwork, collaboration, and interaction are training grounds for future *responsible citizens*, people who set goals, work within established systems, and motivate others to help. These kinds of citizens coordinate food drives, develop recycling programs, or take part in community-action committees.

<http://www.rootsofaction.com/community-service-ideas-for-youth/>



Coming up...



April 1st	Tuition is Due
April 14th	Half-Day for Students Dismissal at 12:00
April 24th – 28th	Standardized Testing for Grades 3-5
April 28	Full School Day (Previously Weather Day)
May 5th	IAH Open House/ Muslim Scholars Wax Museum 1:15- 3:00 Pm
May 15th	Full School Day (Previously Weather Day)

Early registration has begun at IAH!

Register your students before May 25th and receive **50% off** initial Registration Fee.

SEATING IS LIMITED! Due to space limitations some classrooms will have limited number of seating. We recommend strongly that you register your students asap to guarantee a seat for your students for next year.

Preference will be given to students who have already registered.

"Muslim Scholars Wax Museum"

IAH will have an open house **May 5th 1:15-3:00 pm** in sha Allah!

Students will present "**Muslim Scholars Wax Museum**" on that day and classrooms will be open for tours.

Unsure about IAH?

Bring your students during the week of **May 8-12th** for a full or partial day experience to **IAH** so they can experience a day as a student of IAH. Please let us know so we can make arrangements for your visit!

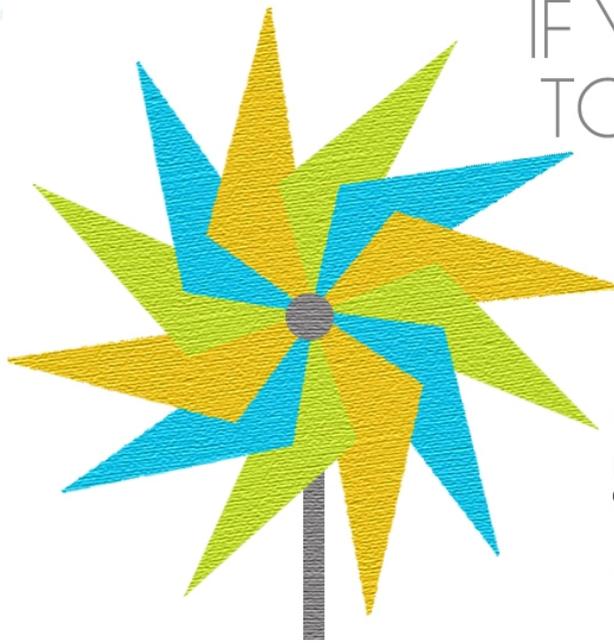
We
will
have
6th
grade
in sha
Allah!





PASS THE PINWHEEL

IF YOU PROMISE
TO *RECOGNIZE*
AND *REPORT*
CHILD ABUSE.



BURNS ● BRUISES ● BITES ● BLACK EYES
BROKEN BONES ● FRIGHTENED OF HOME
EXTREMES IN BEHAVIOR ● AVOIDS HOME
OVERLY COMPLIANT, PASSIVE OR WITHDRAWN
STAYS LATE ● ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL
LACK OF ADULT SUPERVISION ● COMES EARLY



Contact Us

Islamic Academy of Huntsville
1645 Sparkman Drive
Huntsville, AL 35816
Phone: (256) 722 - 9838

<http://islamicacademyofhuntsville.org>
Office@islamicacademyofhuntsville.org