

November 2016 Newsletter

November



“Giving Thanks”

Now that November is over, we should allow thanksgiving to fill our lives for more than just a day, or even a month. **Spend a few more minutes each day thanking Allah (God) for all the good in your life, the ones in your life who matter to you, and to say prayers for those in hardship.**

“Quran [2.152] Therefore remember Me, I will remember you, and be thankful and do not be ungrateful to me.”

Remember to also thank those who matter to you!

“North Dakota Pipeline”

While most of America spent hours with family preparing a feast of Thanksgiving, reflecting with gratitude on blessings bestowed over the years, those original to this land have had a less idyllic perspective on this holiday — one steeped in the déjà vu of historical context playing out in a battle for clean water. **For the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the peaceful fight to stop construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline isn’t environmental activism; it’s preservation of life, protection of a living entity — the Missouri River and Lake Oahe reservoir — as real as flesh, or plant, or animal.** Opposing a potential threat of oil contamination to that water would never be a question — the Missouri has sustained generations and must sustain those to come.

Read more at <http://thefreethoughtproject.com/thanksgiving-day-native-dakota->

Attendance matters!



If you skip classes, you’re not only limiting your future, you’re breaking the law.

Stop Student Truancy—
Call HOTLINE – 687-MISD (6473)

Dear Parents:

Alabama law requires all children between the ages of seven and seventeen to attend school. If any child fails to attend school without legal excuse, that child and the person having custody of that child will be referred

to the juvenile court. At IAH, students are allowed only **16 absences a year (10 unexcused ones)**.

Any child who is prosecuted for truancy may be placed in a juvenile facility or in long-term residential care.



BIG NEWS!

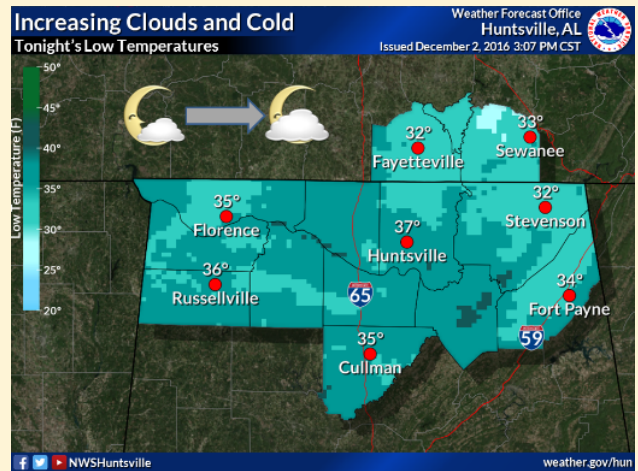
Congratulations to Aleena Bodla, winner of the 2016 IAH Spelling Bee and the first runner up Areej Gouda who forced the competition into 9 rounds. Also congratulations to each finalist from each



Our Third, Fourth, and Fifth grade students visited the national weather Service's Huntsville office, and left a great impression with their interest, attention, and good questions.



The National Weather Service is a component of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Its mission is to provide weather, water, and climate data, forecasts and warnings for the protection of life, property, and enhancement of the national economy.



Ms. Walters arranged for a salesperson from Woody Anderson Ford to bring a hybrid car to the school for our 3rd-5th grade students!! Mr. Quenton Duncan explained how a hybrid car works and its difference from a gas-powered vehicle. A hybrid vehicle uses two or more distinct types of power, such as internal combustion engine+electric motor.

Mr. Kenny Anderson, Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle's Multicultural affairs Officer, spoke with 3rd and 5th graders at the activity period about helping people in Huntsville build bridges between racial, ethnic, and religious groups.



Upcoming Events

FULL Tuition is DUE	DEC 1st
National Geographic Bee	DEC 8th @ 9am
Report Cards	DEC 15th
Parent Teacher Conference (Optional) Students' Half Day (Dismissal at 12:00)	DEC 16th
Winter Holiday (no school)	DEC 19th-Jan 2nd



National Geographic Bee – Dec 8th @ 9:00 am

The National Geographic Bee (called the National Geography Bee until the year 2000) is an annual geography contest sponsored by the National Geographic Society. The bee, held every year since 1989, is open to students in the fourth through eighth grades in participating schools from the United States.

- February 6, 2017 - Deadline for completion of State Bee Qualifying Tests.
- March 31, 2017 - State Bees.

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee/index.html>

<http://nationalgeographic.org/bee/study>



Upcoming Events



2 in 1



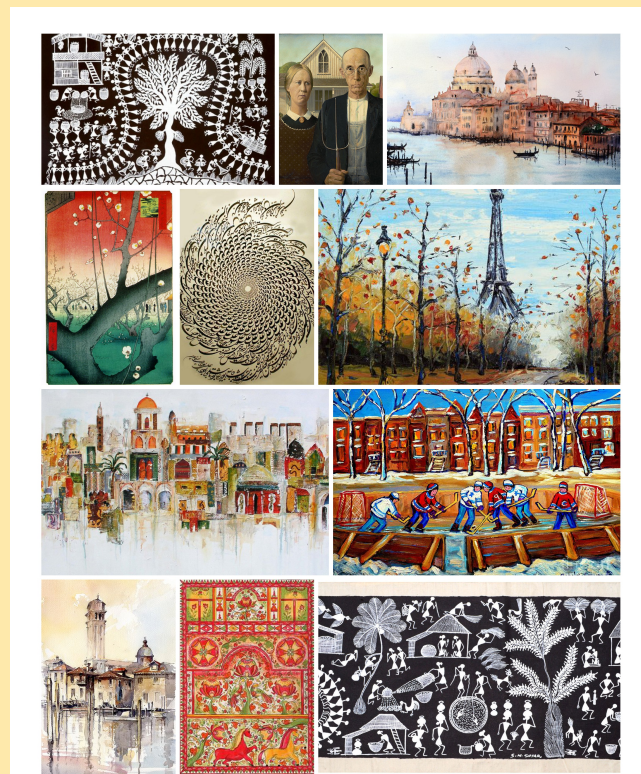
“Cultural Fair and Annual Fundraising”

IAH will hold its annual “**Cultural Fair**” on **Saturday, January 21st**, to celebrate one of our school’s greatest strengths “**DIVERSITY.**” Cultural Fair is an entertaining and educational way to display a variety of world cultures in one location. It increases awareness and understanding of the cultural and ethnic diversity of the community, while it creates an atmosphere of neighborly celebration. It further helps educate the community about the international ethnic and cultural connections of its individuals, businesses, and organization. Most importantly, children find their cultural pride and identity in such occasions. This year our cultural fair will be conducted collectively with our Annual fundraising.

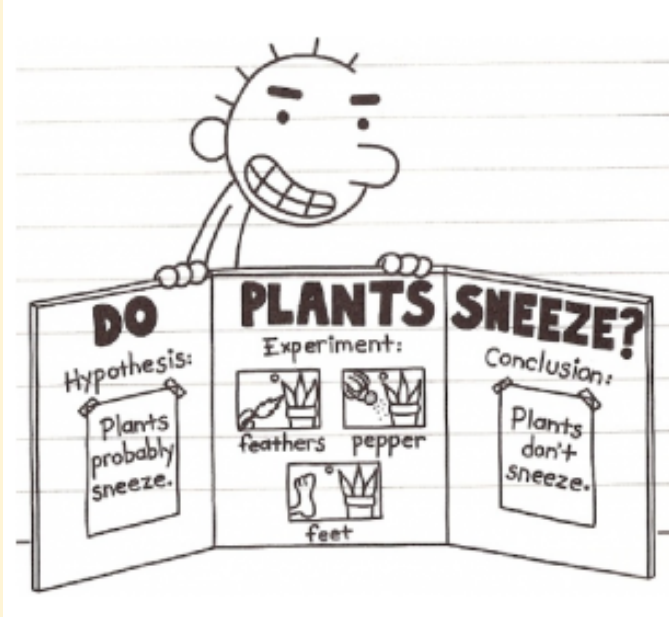
Arrangements will be made for the Cultural Fair celebration to be combined with our fundraising events.

We ask you to actively invite and bring people from outside community and those that usually may not participate in our programs. Invitation cards will be made available soon inshallah.

We ask ALL parents to participate in organizing and executing this event vigorously. Such events are organized to persevere the Islamic School for YOUR children and their future.



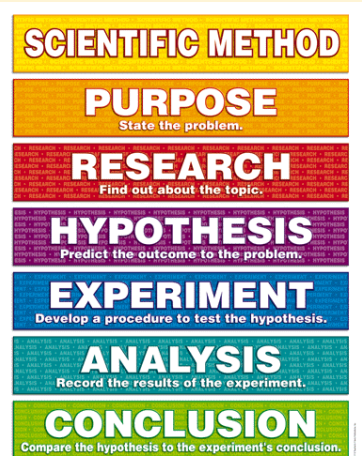
Get a head start!



Science Fair:

Science Fair will be during the week of **January 23rd-27th**. We have devoted a whole page in November Newsletter for you to get a head start. **All projects will be due on January 23rd.**

There are many sites that can help you to come up with good ideas for the project. **Make sure science projects are grade- appropriate. Don't be afraid of trying a new, challenging project that can teach you a whole lot! If**



you are not sure if the project is appropriate for your grade level, please check with your teacher. We encourage use to [integrate Quranic](#) support in your project if possible.

Steps to Prepare a Science Fair Project (Grades 1-5th)

1. Select a Topic (Turn in your topics by "Dec 2nd or before" to your teacher to make sure they are OK!) See the list of projects and find out "What Makes a Good Project?" Remember a Science Fair Project is a test you do to find an answer to a question, not just showing what you know about something.

2. Gather Background Information Gather information about your topic from books, magazines, the Internet, people and companies.

Keep notes about where you got your info (References).

3. Scientific Method State the Purpose of your experiment - What are you trying to find out?

Select a variable (something you will change/vary) that will help you find your answer.

States your Hypothesis - your guess about what the answer will be.

Decide on and describe how you will change the thing you selected.

Decide on and describe how you will measure your results.

4. Run Controlled Experiment and Record Data Do the experiment as described above.

Keep notes in one place. Write down everything you can think of, you might need it later.

5. Graphs and Charts What happened? Answer that question, then put the results in graphs and charts.

6. Construct an Exhibit or Display It has to be neat, but it does NOT have to be typed.

Make it fun, but be sure people can understand what you did.

Show that you used the Scientific Method.

7. Write a short Report Tell the story of your project - tell what you did and exactly how you did it.

Include a page that shows where you gathered background information. It can be 2 pages or even more.

8. Practice Presentation to Judges Practice explaining your project to someone (parent, friend, grandparent, etc.) This will help you be calm on Science Fair Day.

The judges are very nice and will be interested in what you did and what you learned.

9. Come to the Fair and have fun! See you there!

- <http://www.super-science-fair-projects.com/>
- <http://scienceproject.com/projects/guide/steps.html>
- http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project_guide_index.shtml
- <http://scijinks.jpl.nasa.gov/science-fair/>
- http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral/Science-Fair-Projects/Science_Fair_Project_Steps.pdf

Become better parents:



According to an occupational therapist with 10 years of experience working with children, parents, and teachers, **“our children are getting worse in many aspects. I have seen and continue to see a decline in kids’ social, emotional, and academic functioning, as well as a sharp increase in learning disabilities and other diagnoses.”** Today’s children come to school emotionally unavailable for learning, and there are many factors in our modern lifestyle that contribute to this.

1. Technology

Using technology as a “Free babysitting service” is, in fact, not free at all. The payment is waiting for you just around the corner. We pay with our kids’ nervous systems, with their attention, and with their ability for delayed gratification. Compared to virtual reality, everyday life is boring. Parental emotional availability is the main nutrient for child’s brain. Unfortunately, we are gradually depriving our children of that nutrient.

2. Kids get everything they want the moment they want

“I am Hungry!!” “In a sec I will stop at the drive thru” “I am Thirsty!” “Here is a vending machine.” “I am bored!” “Use my phone!” The ability to delay gratification is one of the key factors for future success. We have the best intentions -- to make our children happy -- but unfortunately, we make them happy at the moment but miserable in the long term. To be able to delay gratification means to be able to function under stress. Our children are gradually becoming less equipped to deal with even minor stressors, which eventually become huge obstacles to their success in life.

3. Kids rule the world

“My son doesn’t like vegetables.” “She doesn’t like going to bed early.” “He doesn’t like to eat breakfast.” “She doesn’t like toys, but she is very good at her iPad” “He doesn’t want to get dressed on his own.” “She is too lazy to eat on her own.” This is what I hear from parents all the time. Since when do children dictate to us how to parent them? If we leave it all up to them, all they are going to do is eat macaroni and cheese and bagels with cream cheese, watch TV, play on their tablets, and never go to bed. Without proper nutrition and a good night’s sleep, our kids come to school irritable, anxious, and inattentive. In addition, we send them the wrong message. They learn they can do what they want and not do what they don’t want. The concept of “need to do” is absent.

4. Endless Fun

We have created an artificial fun world for our children. There are no dull moments. The moment it becomes quiet, we run to entertain them again, because otherwise, we feel that we are not doing our parenting duty. We live in two separate worlds. They have their “fun“ world, and we have our “work” world. Why aren’t children helping us in the kitchen or with laundry? Why don’t they tidy up their toys? This is basic monotonous work that trains the brain to be workable and function under “boredom,” which is the same “muscle” that is required to be eventually teachable at school. When they come to school and it is time for handwriting their answer is “I can’t. It is too hard. Too boring.”

5. Limited social interaction

We are all busy, so we give our kids digital gadgets and make them “busy” too. Kids used to play outside, where, in unstructured natural environments, they learned and practiced their social skills. Unfortunately, technology replaced the outdoor time. Also, technology made the parents less available to socially interact with their kids. Obviously, our kids fall behind... the babysitting gadget is not equipped to help kids develop social skills. Most successful people have great social skills. This is the priority! **Read more:** <http://yourot.com/parenting-club/2016/5/16/why-our-children-are-so-bored-at-school-cant-wait-and-get-so-easily-frustrated>

What's happening in...



PTO Corner (Parents- Teachers- Organization)

Our PTO elected their 2016-2017 officers during their meeting in early September. The election for 2017-2018 year will take place in May 2017, inshallah (God willing).

Our PTO officers for this academic year are:

- ❖ **President: Wijdan Nour**
- ❖ **Vice President: Eman Lotfey**
- ❖ **Secretary: Summayah Fatima**
- ❖ **Treasurer: Bushra Elsayed**

Please direct all inquiries to PTO_IAH@yahoo.com

We welcome Sis. Najat as our parent-teacher representative on IAH board. We are so glad to have her with us!

Our moms have been working tirelessly on Fridays to provide us with delicious sandwiches. The proceeds go to PTO Fund and will be used for improvements around the school and classrooms. Please be a part of the movement toward success and cooperate with our hard-working mothers. **Everyone is obligated to help as much as they are able to.**

We are collecting Box Tops!

HOW BOX TOPS WORK:

BUY Find "Box Tops for Educations

CLIP Box Tops from each package.

SEND Box Tops to school in a bag

EARN Box Tops are each worth 10¢ for your school.



Earn Cash for Our School!

What's happening in...



IAH Mini Store

To help raise extra funds for school expenses, IAH will open a small store in the front office beginning Monday, Nov. 7th, inshallah. The goal is to gradually grow the store to where it generates good profit for school expenses, although right now it is very small. Come visit our store on Monday!

2nd Grade was our winner of class fundraising this month! They collected \$62 by collecting pennies and dimes for their classroom! They shall receive a class party as a thank you for their ambitious race!!!



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