



Edmonton Islamic Academy High School Newsletter

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Welcome to Another School Year! 2013-2014

We welcome you back, our dear High School folks! Hopefully, now that we are refreshed after a long summer break (which included a most spiritually rejuvenating month of the year- Ramadan) we will put forth our energies once again, into a whole new year of success. It's November and we have already long begun our work on a successful year. Yes, the construction project is on!

This year, EIA High School has expanded greatly. With 52 students in total, our prospects of energizing the school year with vibrant abilities are even brighter. Furthermore, we now have two Grade 10 classes, and who can beat the enthusiastic vigour of a bunch of sophomores? So to our beloved tenth graders: Here's another warm welcome exclusively for you!

Due to students' interest and demand, we are offering Foods 10, Art 10 and Art 20 as option classes this semester. Naturally, we are all looking forward to some

exotic dishes and brilliant masterpieces of art from these students. We expect to get some food samples to satisfy our taste buds!

Apart from routine classes, Leadership (as a credit course) has begun! A total of 30 future leaders (InshAllah) have joined this class and are enhancing their skills to become great leaders of this Ummah- under the guiding light of Islam.

initiated: Ar-Rihla (The Journey) Club. An Islamic inspirational club designed by and for the High School girls. Ar-Rihla focuses on the daily practices, ideas and dealings a Muslim student should withhold. It includes planned outreaches- such as monthly pamphlets on relevant topics, weekly halaqas and organized events. After all, we are all travelers in this world, so let us make the best of it.



And of course, the EIA High School Clubs cannot be forgotten. With many clubs yet under the process of formation, the Chess Club and Anime Club in particular, will soon be operating, InshAllah. However, this year, a new club has been

Once again, I pray to Allah ('Azza Wajjal) that we may lead a successful year ahead, with blossoming outcomes in all aspects and may we prove that knowledge is, indeed, light. Ameen.

Ujala Khan

Our First Graduate Class!!



This year was a milestone for the Edmonton Islamic Academy with the first ever high school graduation ceremony held on June 29, 2013. Eight hard working young ladies graduated grade 12, most, with honors with distinction. The event

Academy, and led by their teachers and principal marched to the stage to enjoy the presentation of their certificates, a beautiful light of knowledge ceremony, capped by a delicious dinner. Among the hundred plus guest were the Minister of Advanced Ed-

education, Mayor Mandel, and a number of member of the legislature, as well as members of the Academy Board of Trustees and representatives of the various mosques in Edmonton. Various members of the press were also present and there was coverage of the event on our local television.

All in all it was a night to remember, filled with memories, laughter and some tears. Congratulations to our first high school graduating class of 2013.

Mannal Abou-Absi



AP- Advanced Placement- Star



Sarah Jawdat with Mrs. Jorf, the principal, in the graduation ceremony

*Sarah Jawdat
scored 4/5 in
AP Chemistry Test*



Scholarship Workshops



Earlier this week the entire grade 11 and 12 class attended a short presentation given by Mr. Chang in the lounge. He went through all the potential obstacles and decisions one might face after graduation. It included means of education (overseas, online, in class), living costs and university fees amongst other things. There

were many options; it was very informative in terms of how one can obtain a scholarship whether it be through academics or sports. There was also other options such as volunteer scholarship which opens many doors for some students who do a lot of volunteer work. The grade ten students also attended a workshop again presented by Mr. Chang, mostly addressing how as a first year high school student you can learn about your career options and help you know which courses are best suited for each stu-



dent. It was very helpful and informative for all the students who are on the path to finding their own.

Aisha Swenia



Announcing our First High School sport teams!

This year the high school had their first ever Boys Volleyball Team and Girls Volleyball Team. The teams consisted of grade 10's and 11's.

Edmonton Islamic Academy was in the local Edmonton League against school's such as M.E Lazerte, Ross Shepard and Queen Elizabeth.

Both teams being very new to the sport of volleyball had a very challenging year against schools who have been playing the sport together for years but we were the most positive and energetic squad in the league. Both teams have improved greatly as the year progressed and the entire coaching staff are proud of both teams.

Abdirahman Sheikhdon, a



Boys Volleyball Team

grade 11 boys says " The season was very exciting being part of a team, as a team we definitely improved along the way". He continued to state that he is very excited for next season now that we have one



Girls Volleyball Team

season under our belts.

Marwa Younes the loudest and funniest player in the entire league states the girls came together as a team and it was a great experience every game and made a lot of memories.

Coach Craig states that he had the privilege to coach both teams and can say he couldn't ask for two better teams to be around. The energy and the commitment to learn and improve. Nothing could bring these teams down. These two teams will be something to watch out for in the years to come.

Both teams are playing in their first playoff game on Monday November 4 at Mother Mary Margaret!

On the Generosity of Abu Baker



Once when the Prophet urged his companions to give sadaqa, Umar bin al-Khattab (ra) brought half of what he owned, but only to find that once again Abu Bakr (ra) had outdone him by giving away all that he had. Sadaqah is

not restricted to any special deed of righteousness though. The general rule is that all good deeds are sadaqah.

Moreover; Abu Bakr with the wealth he had, also had a major role in freeing some of the Muslim slaves, who were barbarically tortured by their heartless Mushrik masters to give up the faith and return to their masters' beliefs. The heartless monsters tried all kinds of torture: they made them lie all naked on the burning desert sand, putting

big stones on their chest, as well as other kinds of torture. Here Abu Bakr's wealth came to the rescue, as he bought the poor helpless slaves from their inhuman masters and set them free, Bilal al-Habashi, the slave of 'Umayyah ibn Khalaf, was among those who were set free by Abu Bakr. Bilal became afterwards the *mu'adhin* at the Prophet's mosque.



Bottle Drive Success!

The high school department has been working very hard the past few weeks on the Bottle Drive Fundraiser to fundraise for many of our future high school plans, including the grade 12 Umrah field trip. Alhamdulillah, we have been blessed with a tremendous success! Through the bottle drive, we have raised over **\$1200** in only two weeks.

We cannot stress how grateful we were with our final results. The winning class 5B, which donated over 1000 bottles, enjoyed a delicious pizza party as a token of our gratitude before the Eid break.

We want to thank everyone for all their support and donations, Jazakum Allahu Khairan and may

Allah accept your good deeds. We are so thankful for having such a caring and supportive community, without you our dreams would have stayed only a vague imagination. Inshallah we will be having more fundraising events in the near future so keep your eyes opened!

Rania Mahdi

The constant giving of a little is said to please Allah more than the occasional gift of much.

STUDY TIPS

Students with better study methods and strategies score higher on their exams.



Yes, yes we all know the struggles we all go through when we are trying to study for a test or a quiz. I'm pretty sure you sit there and flip through your textbook and notes to try to get all the material in so you can pass. Am I right?? Well there is a better and more effective way to avoid all that.

* When you get homework DO IT!! That's a major thing because doing your homework is practice, and even if your teacher didn't give you any homework go through the textbook for at least 15 minutes.

* Read over your notes for that day and if you find something that you aren't sure about write it down and ask the teacher in class. REVIEW MATERIAL FROM THE DAY BEFORE TOO!!

* Have a study group with friends.

* Don't try to do all your studying the night before the test. Instead space out your studying, review class materials at least several times a week, focusing on one topic at a time.

* Learn the general concepts first, don't worry about learning the details until you have learned the main ideas.

* Take notes and write down a summary of the important ideas as you read through your study material.

* Take short breaks frequently. Your memory retains the information that you study at the beginning and the end better than what you study in the middle.

* Don't study later than the time you usually go to sleep, you may fall asleep or be tempted to go to sleep, instead try studying in the afternoon or early evening. If you are a morning person try studying in the morning.

Faaria Khan

"Repeat to remember and remember to repeat" - as Mrs. Bahja always says.



"Everyone who is taken by death asks for more time, while everyone who still has time makes excuses for procrastination."

-Ali Ibn Abi Talib RA

POTLUCK

Everyone enjoys a little treat every once in a while

We have had two Potlucks this year so far. Every Last Thursday of the month students enjoy the luxury of dressing up in their favourite outfits and a potluck lunch with the rest of the High School family. It has been a real nice experience and we are looking forward to what you are bringing next to share with rest of us

Inshallah!



YOLO

THE AR-RIHLA HIGH SCHOOL CLUB HAS SOMETHING TO SHARE
WITH EVERYONE!

#YOLO

YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE

That's for sure. We only have one life to prove ourselves. Not to people, but to Allah (SWT): That we are worth either Jannah (Paradise) or Jahannam (Hellfire). And no, we don't live twice. Because the second time we are raised into living beings (even after death) will be for questioning. And guess what? We are going to be asked about how we lived our life. What were our priorities? What was worth "it" for us?

So what's worth it?

Is it everything that's "in the moment"? Is it the 4 minutes of a meaningless song? Is it 3 hours of a movie that you know is a fantasy and just does not exist? Is it a two minutes' walk to our lockers of backbiting another fellow human being? Or is it something greater all together, something much more elevated and noble? Something like... practising Islam? Living the Sunnah of our Beloved Prophet (SAW)? Knowing and acknowledging the presence of Allah (SWT) every step of our life? Something like remembering death?

No one likes death, right?

That's for sure, too. And Allah (SWT) in His ultimate knowledge knew that. That is why in Surat Al-Qariah [Surah # 101 of the Holy Quran] Allah (SWT) repeats "the Striking Calamity" 3 times! It's like a friend tells you, "A truck is coming behind you". And you ignore her, thinking she is crazy. She tells you again, "A truck is coming behind you, it's near!" You still ignore her, because you didn't like what she was telling you- the idea of a truck hitting you was too... scary. She yells again, in anguish, "The truck, Sarah! The truck!" And you turn around, just to let your eyes befall the truth, as it was coming all along.

Now that's us with death. Exactly like that. We choose to ignore it, even if our conscience is nagging at us every day of our lives. But remember, #YOLO.

You Only Live Once

Let us please face it. We only have this life- 20, 30, 40, 60, 80 years- to make our hereafter either everlasting comfort or everlasting pain. So the next time your friend puts on a song for you to "check out", tell her, "Hey, YOLO." But what will this YOLO mean? Will it mean "You Only Live Once, so let's blast it, man!" Or will it mean, "You Only Live Once, so let's turn it off and listen to some Quran."

Your Life. Your Choice. Your Judgement

الحجّة
The Journey
An EIA High School Club